



12¢



FEB.
NO. 58

House of SECRETS

MARK MERLIN, YOU
ARE CHARGED WITH
CRIMES AGAINST THE
UNKNOWN!

AND MY DEFENDER
IS IN LEAGUE WITH
THEM! I HAVEN'T
GOT A CHANCE!



A 2-PART SUSPENSE STORY
FEATURING THE *ORIGIN* OF
MARK MERLIN,
SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL!

104

KINGS

Knights

ONLY
\$1.49
postpaid



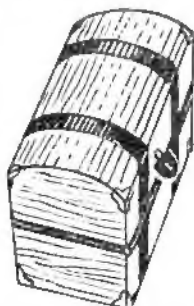
Here's What You Get:

- 4 Kings on horseback with swords
- 12 Knights in armor on horseback with Pikes
- 12 Knights on horseback with Banners
- 4 Buglers afoot
- 12 Knights on horseback with battle axes
- 20 Footsoldiers with Maces and side swords
- 20 Footsoldiers with swords and shields
- 20 Footsoldiers with long bows

A GLORIOUS SET OF PLASTIC TOYS EVERY CHILD WILL BE PLEASED TO OWN!

Comes in two separate armies . . . the **BLACK KNIGHTS** and the **WHITE KNIGHTS**! Form your own battle lines! Every fight a delight! Fun for everyone in the family

Comes in Treasure Chest box in which to store your toys away! You must be satisfied or your money refunded in full!



104 Kings Knights
Carle Place, L. I., N. Y.

Dept. DA

No C.O.D.'s

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing \$1.49 for each set of Knights. Kindly rush these to me. If not satisfied, I may return them for full refund.

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

Canadian and Foreign orders: send \$1.98 International Postal Money Order with order.



MARK MERLIN

SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL

in TRIAL by FIRE

HERE IS YOUR FIRST TEST, MARK MERLIN! YOU MUST WALK THROUGH ONE OF THOSE FLAMING DOORS! YOU HAVE 60 SECONDS TO DECIDE WHICH ONE!

I WAS TOLD THERE MIGHT BE SOME WAY TO SURVIVE THIS TEST... WHAT CAN IT BE?

PART 1 LIKE MOST OF YOU, I SCOFFED AT THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN SHADOWNY BEINGS AND FANTASTIC POWERS THAT LIE BEYOND THE THRESHOLD OF OUR OWN SENSES! BUT LIFE HAD AN EERIE LESSON IN STORE FOR ME! WHEN IT WAS OVER, I WAS NO LONGER SO SURE WHERE OUR WORLD ENDED AND WHERE WE CROSSED OVER INTO -- THE LAND OF THE UNKNOWN!

"This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever."

MESKIN-

HOUSE OF SECRETS, No. 58, Jan.-Feb., 1963. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd and Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK 22, N.Y. Editor: Murray Boltinoff. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S., 90 cents including postage. Foreign, \$1.80 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A.

Feldon & Co., 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y. © 1962 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U.S.A.

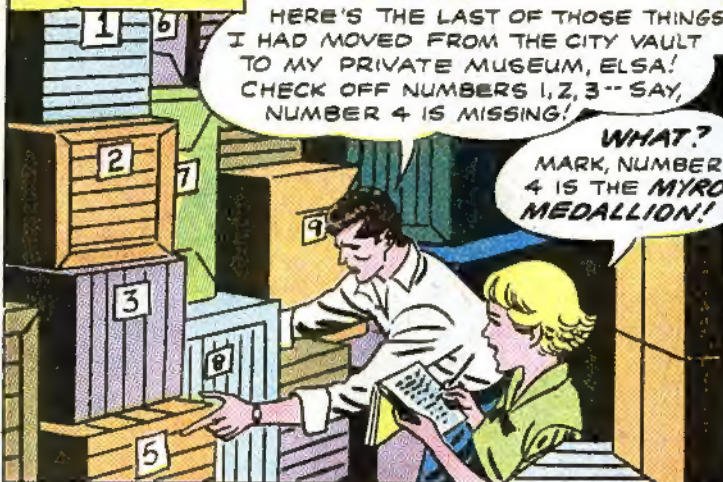
IT'S A BUSY DAY IN THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF MARK MERLIN, WORLD'S LEADING AUTHORITY ON THE SUPERNATURAL...

HERE'S THE LAST OF THOSE THINGS I HAD MOVED FROM THE CITY VAULT TO MY PRIVATE MUSEUM, ELSA! CHECK OFF NUMBERS 1, 2, 3-- SAY, NUMBER 4 IS MISSING!

WHAT? MARK, NUMBER 4 IS THE MYRO MEDALLION!

OH, NO! IF THAT THING HAS BEEN LOST, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE PERSON WHO FINDS IT!

WE'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE TO HELP US FIND IT!



AND SHORTLY AFTER CAPTAIN REEVES ARRIVES...

I RESPECT YOUR REPUTATION, MR. MERLIN, BUT DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE A MERE MEDALLION POSSESSES DISASTROUS POWERS?

I MUST CONVINCE YOU OF IT OR THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT PERSON MIGHT BE ON MY HANDS! LISTEN, CAPTAIN-- SOME YEARS AGO, WHILE I WAS STILL AT COLLEGE...



"...I SPENT MY VACATIONS WORKING FOR MY UNCLE, 'THE MIGHTY MERLIN,' ONE OF THE GREAT STAGE MAGICIANS..."

AND NOW MY YOUTHFUL ASSISTANT, MISS ELSA, WILL CLOSE THE DOOR OF HER CABINET AND IT WILL BE RAISED INTO THE AIR!



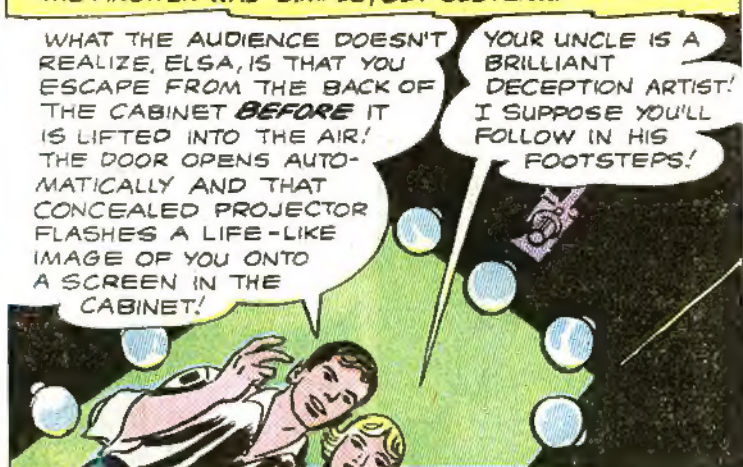
NOW, AS SHE OPENS THE DOOR, YOU CAN OBSERVE THAT SHE IS STILL INSIDE THE CABINET! BUT WATCH CLOSELY!



"THEN, AS THE SMOKE CLEARED..."



"THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE, BUT CLEVER..."



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO AFTER I GRADUATE THIS YEAR, BUT I DOUBT IF I'D ENJOY A CAREER IN MAGIC! AFTER ALL-- "MAGIC" IS NOTHING BUT SKILLED FAKERY!

ALL OF IT, MARK? I WONDER!

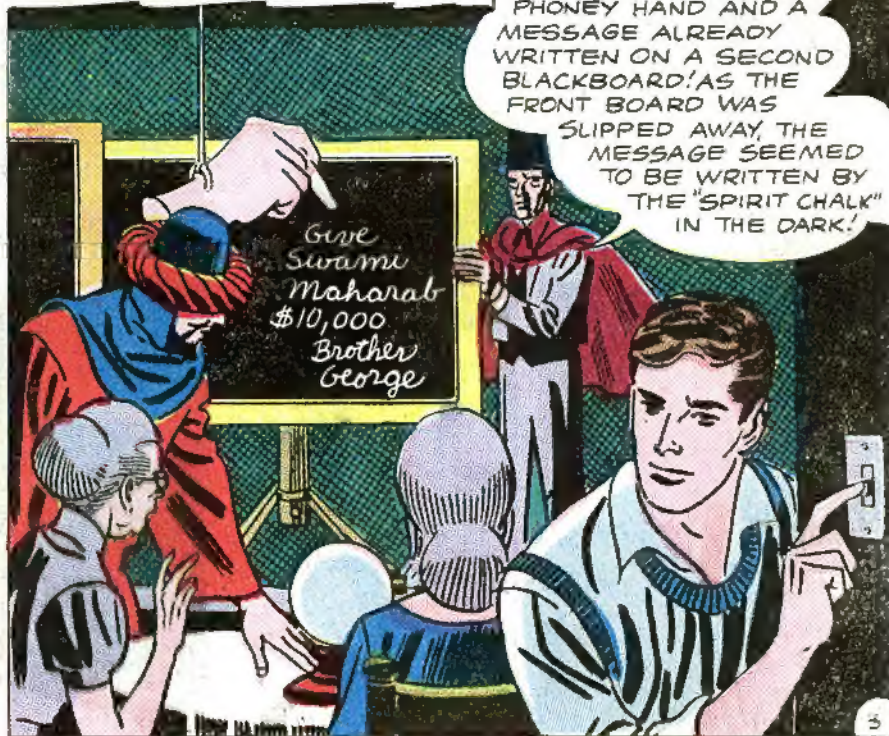


SURE! HOUDINI-- THE GREATEST STAGE MAGICIAN OF ALL-- EXPOSED SUPER-NATURAL QUACKS ALL HIS LIFE!

AND SO DO I! BUT WE DID IT FOR THE SAME REASON-- TO GET RID OF THE PHONIES SO THE TRUE MYSTERIES OF LIFE CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD! COME WITH ME TONIGHT AND I'LL SHOW YOU!

"AND SO, THAT NIGHT, AND MANY OTHERS TO FOLLOW, I ACCOMPANIED MY UNCLE AS HE EXPOSED THE FRAUDS AND DECEIVERS..."

TURN ON THE LIGHTS, MARK, QUICKLY! AH!! THERE'S YOUR SPIRIT MESSAGE, LADIES! A PHONEY HAND AND A MESSAGE ALREADY WRITTEN ON A SECOND BLACKBOARD! AS THE FRONT BOARD WAS SLIPPED AWAY, THE MESSAGE SEEMED TO BE WRITTEN BY THE "SPIRIT CHALK" IN THE DARK!



"THOSE WERE THRILLING EXPERIENCES, BUT NOT LONG AFTER I RETURNED TO FINISH MY STUDIES, A TELEGRAM BROUGHT SAD NEWS..."



"IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATION, I TOOK POSSESSION OF MY INHERITANCE..."

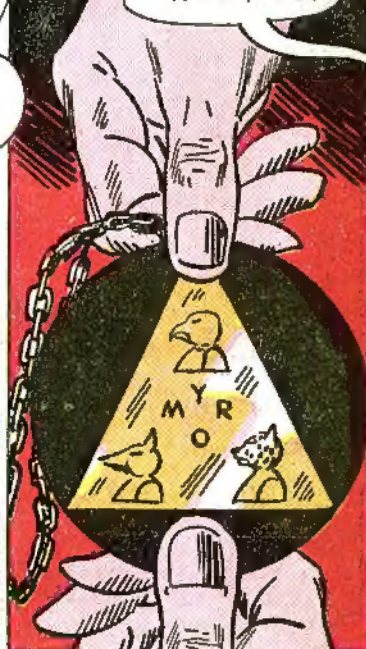
YOUR UNCLE MUST'VE HOPED YOU'D FOLLOW IN HIS CAREER! THAT'S WHY HE LEFT YOU ALL HIS COSTUMES AND EFFECTS AS WELL AS HIS MANSION ON MYSTERY HILL!

BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE THAT STAGE MAGIC IS FOR ME! HMM! HE ONCE SHOWED ME A SECRET COMPARTMENT IN THIS TRUNK! LET'S SEE!



"IT TOOK ME A MOMENT TO LOCATE IT, AND INSIDE..."

A STRANGE MEDALLION BEARING MYSTIC IMAGES AND LETTERS! AND LOOK, ELSA -- THERE'S A NOTE HERE, TOO!



DEAR MARK: IF I DIE SUDDENLY, DO NOT TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT IT WAS FROM NATURAL CAUSES! IT WAS SIGNED BY MY UNCLE!

DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT HE MEANT THAT SOME UNNATURAL THING--SOME SPIRIT FROM THE UNKNOWN-- WAS RESPONSIBLE?

NO! I THINK HE MEANT--**MURDER!** ALL THOSE PHONIES HE EXPOSED--THEY EACH HAD REASON TO WANT TO SEE HIM OUT OF THE WAY! IF ONE OF THEM DID IT, I'LL SEE HE PAYS FOR IT--DON'T WORRY!

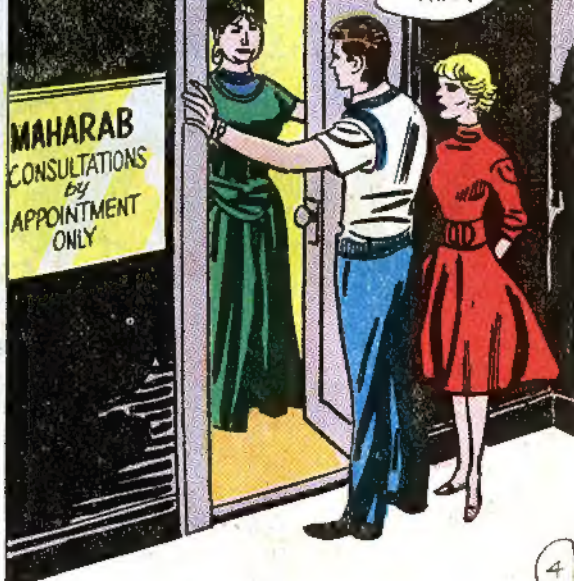


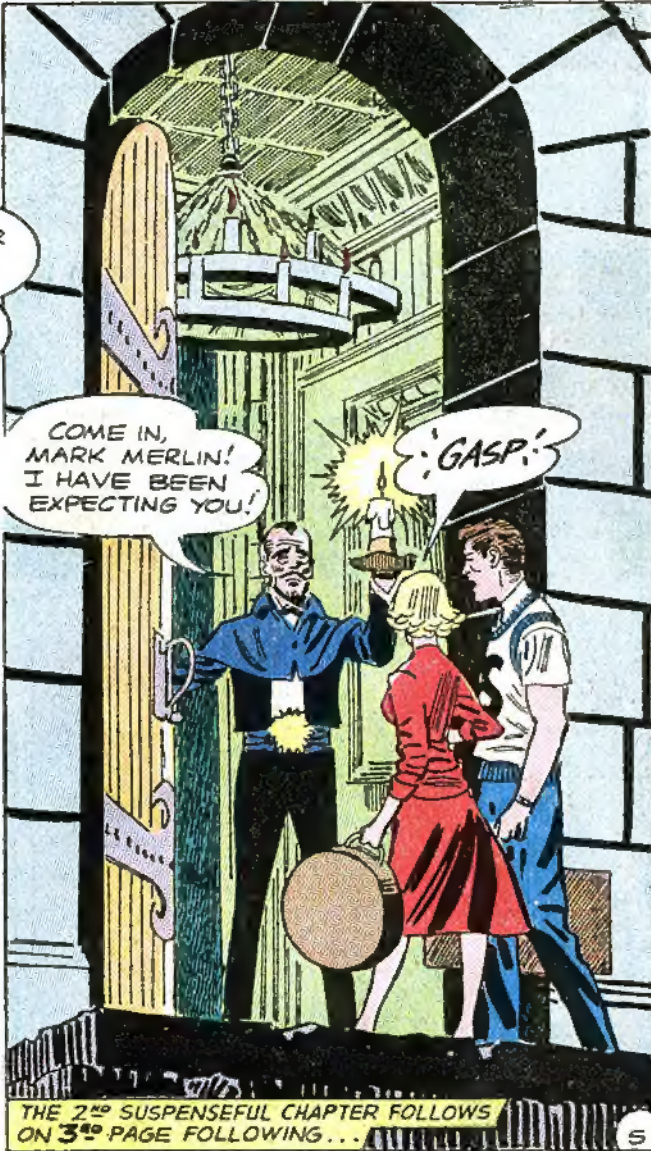
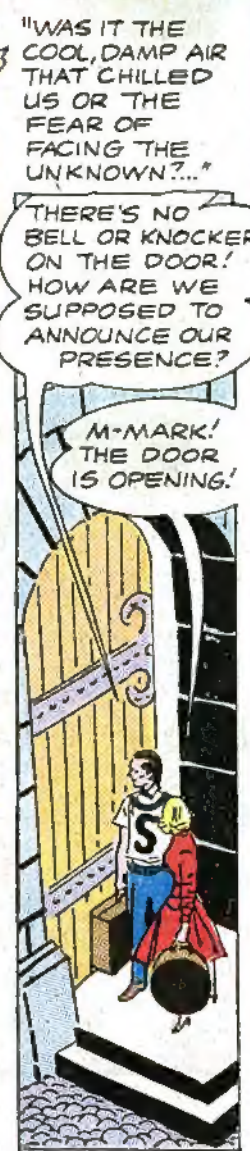
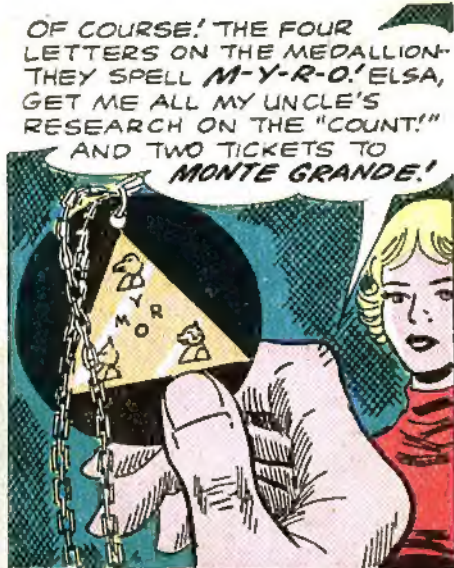
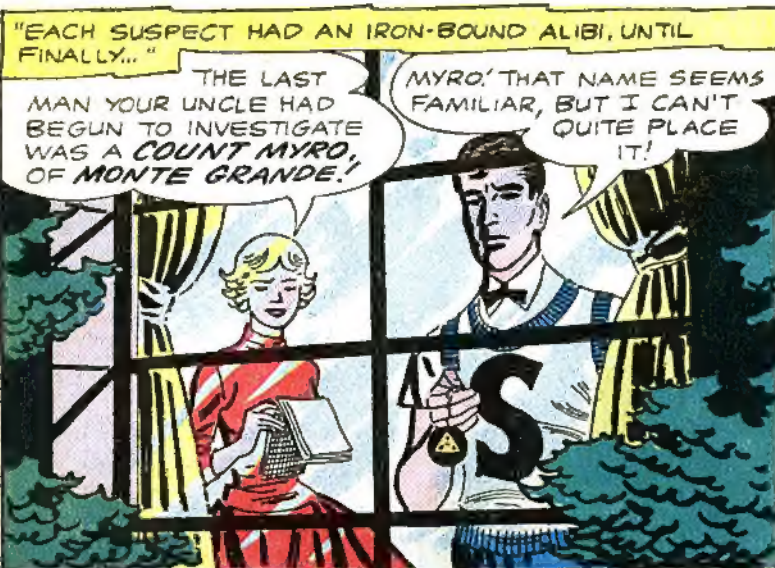
"HAVING NO PROOF OF FOUL PLAY, THE POLICE DROPPED THE CASE, BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO PRESS THE MANHUNT..."

SWAMI MAHARAB COULDN'T HAVE KILLED YOUR UNCLE! HE'S BEEN IN JAIL FOR MONTHS--RIGHT WHERE YOUR UNCLE PUT HIM!

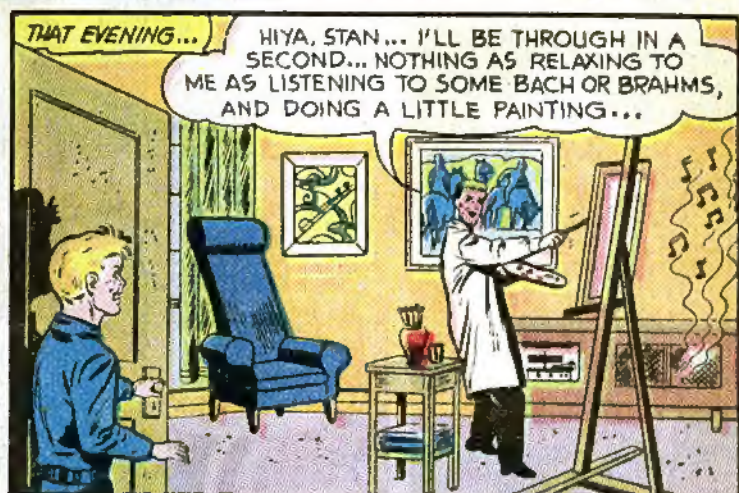


MAHARAB
CONSULTATIONS
by
APPOINTMENT
ONLY





TOUCHDOWN *for* PICASSO!



Featuring the Mightiest **SUPER-HEROES** of ALL TIME!

IN THE **NEW GIANT SUPERMAN ANNUAL**

HERCULES • SAMSON
MIGHTY BOY
THE **FIRST** SUPERGIRL
ASTOUNDING MAN
SUPER-JIMMY OLSEN
COSMIC BOY • SATURN GIRL
LIGHTNING LAD
Plus SUPERMAN and
KRYPTO, of course!



The **SECRET ADVENTURES** of **BATMAN and ROBIN!**

9 Suspense-filled **PERSONAL** STORIES

in the *latest*

GIANT BATMAN ANNUAL!



These favorite Cover Stories... *plus...*

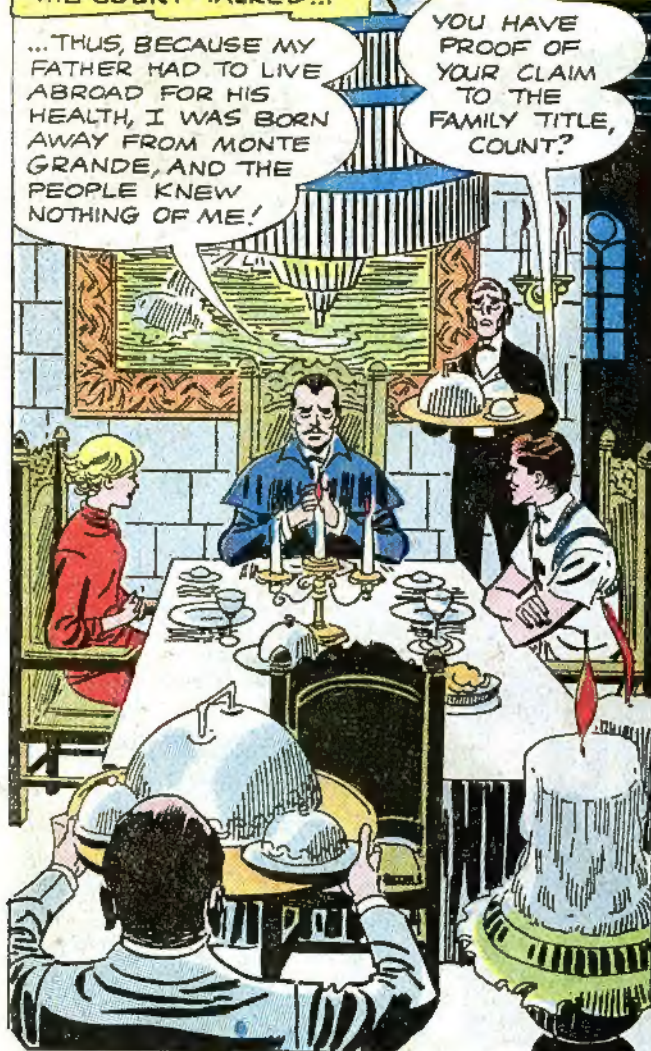
- THE ORIGIN OF BATWOMAN
- THE SECOND BOY WONDER
- AM I REALLY BATMAN?
- BATMAN'S COLLEGE DAYS
- THE VANISHED BATMAN

ON SALE EVERYWHERE... NOV. 8th

PART 2 "SURPRISED BY THIS WEIRD WELCOME, WE FOLLOWED OUR HOST INTO A GREAT HALL WHERE WE WERE INVITED TO DINE WHILE THE COUNT TALKED..."

...THUS, BECAUSE MY FATHER HAD TO LIVE ABROAD FOR HIS HEALTH, I WAS BORN AWAY FROM MONTE GRANDE, AND THE PEOPLE KNEW NOTHING OF ME!

YOU HAVE PROOF OF YOUR CLAIM TO THE FAMILY TITLE, COUNT?



"A SERVANT BROUGHT SOME PAPERS! ONE WAS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND THE OTHER..."

A NEWS-PAPER PHOTO OF YOU BEING WELCOMED TO MONTE GRANDE THE DAY AFTER MY UNCLE'S DEATH!

SINCE THERE IS NO AIRFIELD WITHIN HUNDREDS OF MILES OF OUR COUNTRY, YOU CAN SEE THAT I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN NEAR YOUR UNCLE ONLY 24 HOURS EARLIER!



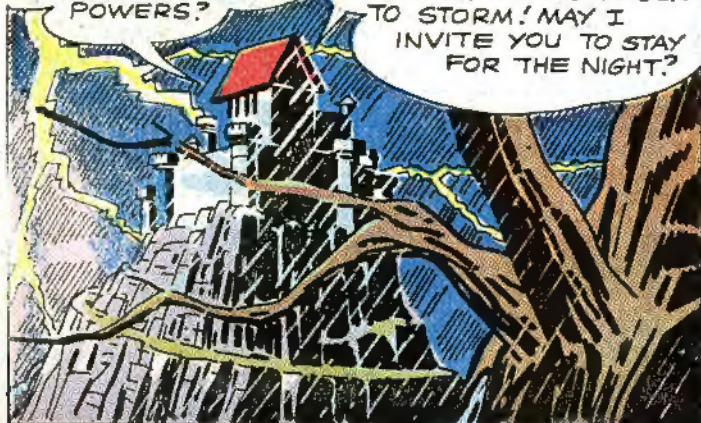
"THEN, WHY, I WONDERED, DID MY UNCLE SUSPECT THE COUNT? IN ANSWER, HE THREW BACK HIS CLOAK..."



HERE IS THE REASON! THIS ANCIENT MEDALLION GIVES MY FAMILY SUPERNATURAL POWERS! CENTURIES AGO, AN IMPOSTOR COPIED THE MEDALLION AND TRIED TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS A MYRO. RECENTLY, YOUR UNCLE UNCOVERED A MEDALLION AND MISTAKENLY CONCLUDED MINE WAS THE FAKE!

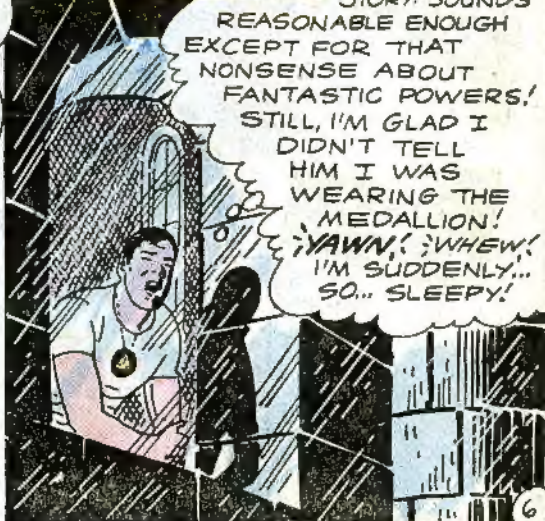
I SEE-- BUT IF THE IMPOSTOR HAD THE TRUE MEDALLION LONG ENOUGH TO COPY IT, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST USE ITS POWERS?

BECAUSE IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO USE THE TRUE MEDALLION FOR EVIL, HE WILL BE DESTROYED BY IT! LISTEN! IT HAS BEGUN TO STORM! MAY I INVITE YOU TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT?



"LATER, IN MY ROOM..."

THE COUNT'S STORY SOUNDS REASONABLE ENOUGH EXCEPT FOR THAT NONSENSE ABOUT FANTASTIC POWERS! STILL, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T TELL HIM I WAS WEARING THE MEDALLION! YAWN! WHEW! I'M SUDDENLY... SO... SLEEPY!

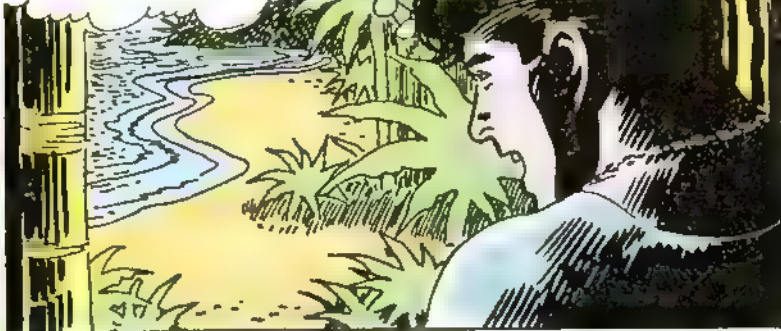


"I SLEPT LIKE A BABE UNTIL MORNING WHEN I AWOKE WITH A STRANGE, OMINOUS FEELING..."



"I DASHED TO THE WINDOW--AND STARED OUT IN SHOCKED DISBELIEF..."

AM I GOING MAD? I FELL ASLEEP IN A CASTLE ATOP A MOUNTAIN IN EUROPE--AND I'VE AWAKENED ON A TROPICAL ISLAND! **ELSA!** I'VE GOT TO SEE HER AT ONCE!



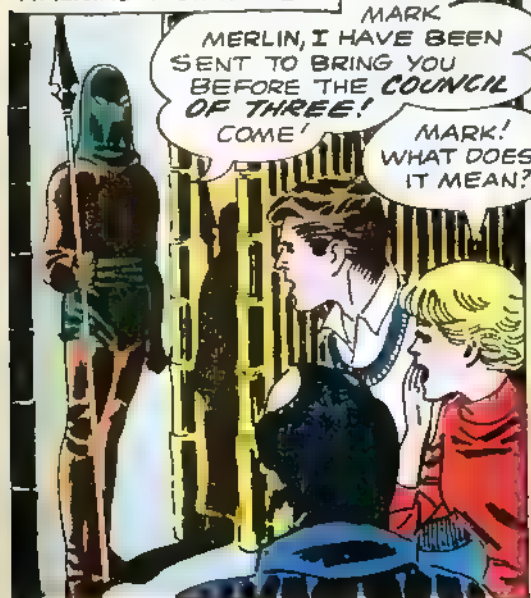
"BUT I'D NO SOONER GRASPED THE KNOB WHEN THE DOOR FLEW OPEN..."

MR. MERLIN! SOMETHING FANTASTIC HAS HAPPENED!

I KNOW, COUNT MYRO! IT'S AS THOUGH WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER WORLD! LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT SOUND OUT IN THE CORRIDOR?



"IN THE NEXT MOMENT, THE DOORWAY WAS FILLED WITH SOMETHING THAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS A WALKING NIGHTMARE..."



MARK MERLIN, I HAVE BEEN SENT TO BRING YOU BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THREE! COME!

MARK! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"THE EXPLANATION CAME MOMENTS LATER, IN A ROOM NEARBY, AS THE MENACING FIGURE REMOVED HIS HOOD..."



MARK MERLIN, YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FROM YOUR WORLD TO OURS TO STAND TRIAL! YOU ARE CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST THE SUPERNATURAL! HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

WHAT? THIS IS INSANE! HOW CAN YOU ACCUSE ME OF SUCH A THING WHEN NO ONE CAN COMMIT CRIMES AGAINST THE UNKNOWN?

LIKE YOUR UNCLE, YOU SET OUT TO DISCREDIT THE POWERS OF THE **UNKNOWN!** THAT IS WHY WE DESTROYED HIM--AND WHY YOU MUST SHARE HIS FATE!

THIS IS WRONG! NEITHER HE NOR HIS UNCLE MEANT TO DEFAME YOU DWELLERS OF THE **UNKNOWN!** THEY MEANT ONLY TO EXPOSE THE FRAUDS WHO TRADE ON YOUR TRUE POWERS!

HOW CAN **YOU** DEFEND HIM, COUNT MYRO--YOU, A BLOOD DESCENDANT OF THE FAMILY TO WHICH WE GAVE MAGIC CRAFTS? AND BOTH MARK MERLIN AND HIS UNCLE ATTEMPTED TO DISCREDIT **YOU!**

BUT ONLY DUE TO A HUMAN ERROR! THEIR INTENTIONS WERE ALWAYS HONORABLE!

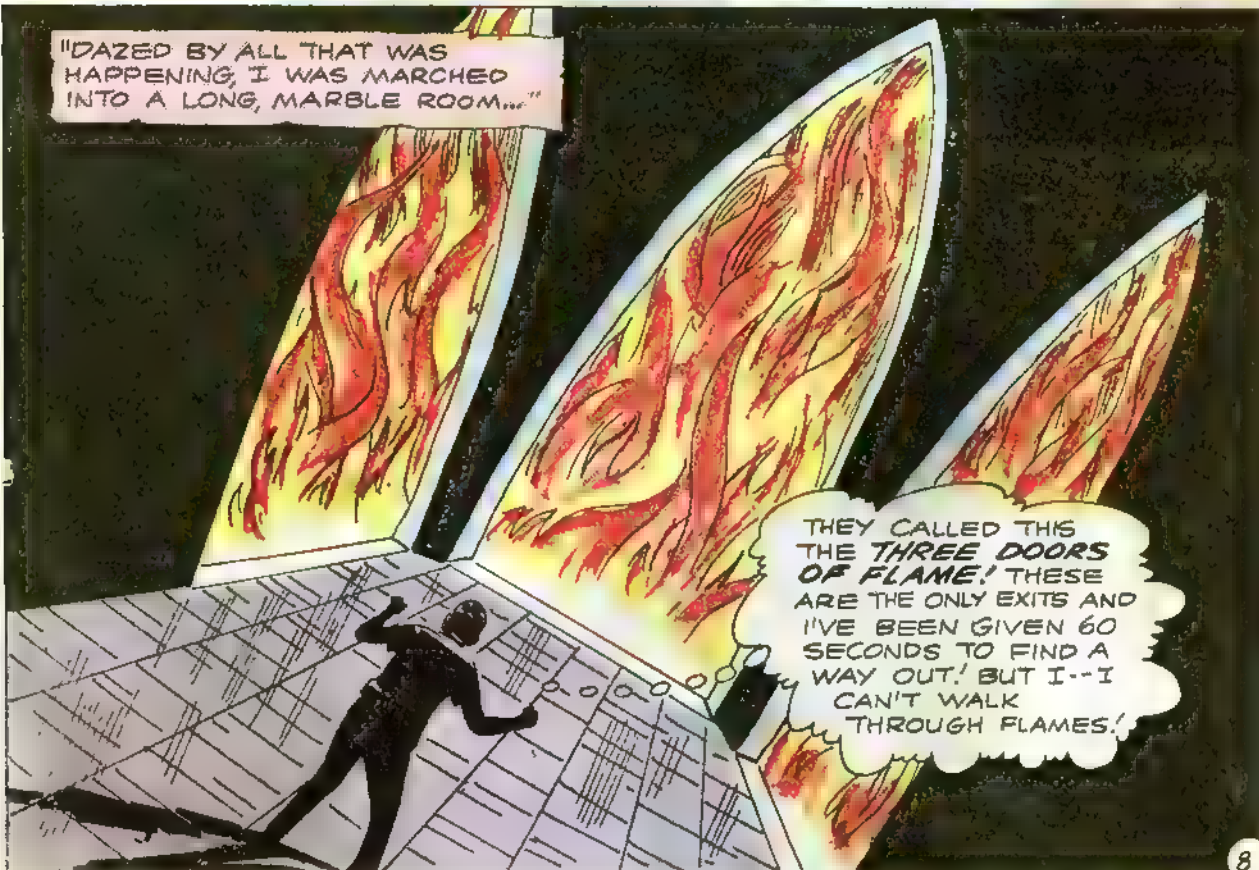
VERY WELL! IF YOU BELIEVE HIS HEART IS TRULY PURE, THERE IS A WAY TO TEST IT! BUT IF HE FAILS THE PRE-SCRIBED TEST, **HE MUST DIE!**

WAIT! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M PREPARED FOR SUCH A TRIAL!

FEAR NOT! IF THE MAN WHO FACES THE **THREE PROBLEMS** IS OF HONORABLE INTENT, THE ANSWERS SHALL BE SOMEHOW RELEVANT TO HIM! HE HAS ONLY TO LOOK SHARPLY! NOW COME, MARK MERLIN!



"DAZED BY ALL THAT WAS HAPPENING, I WAS MARCHED INTO A LONG, MARBLE ROOM..."



THEY CALLED THIS THE **THREE DOORS OF FLAME!** THESE ARE THE ONLY EXITS AND I'VE BEEN GIVEN 60 SECONDS TO FIND A WAY OUT! BUT I--I CAN'T WALK THROUGH FLAMES!

"I BEGAN TO FEEL A CLUTCH OF PANIC..."



PRECIOUS SECONDS TICKING AWAY AND I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND AN ANSWER!... THOSE SMUDGES ON THE CEILING, THAT MAY BE IT!



I'D BETTER BE RIGHT! ONLY A FEW SECONDS LEFT, HERE GOES--!

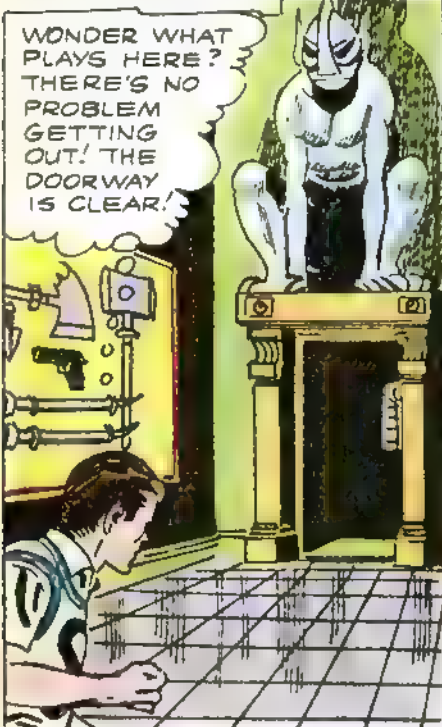
"AND I WAS RIGHT! FOR, AS I PUSHED THROUGH THE LEFT ARCH..."

SO YOU DEDUCED THAT THERE WERE REALLY NO FLAMES IN THE LEFT ARCHWAY-- ONLY A MIRROR-DOOR THAT REFLECTED THE FIRE OF THE ARCH IT FACED!

I SPOTTED SMUDGES MADE BY THE SMOKE ON THE CEILING ABOVE THE RIGHT AND MIDDLE ARCHES, BUT NONE OVER THE LEFT! THAT WAS MY CLUE!

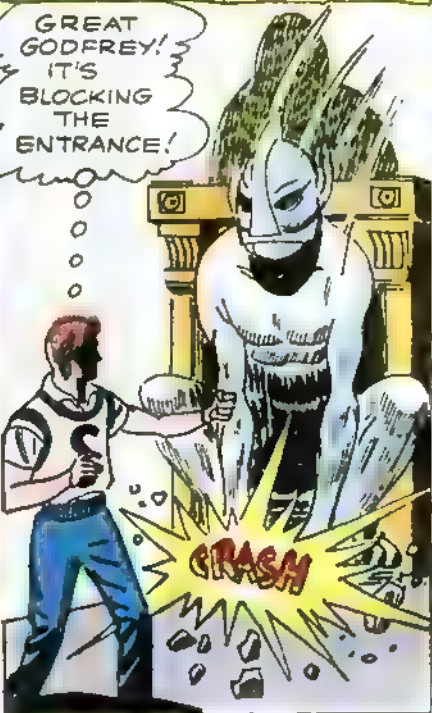


"BUT MY TRIUMPH WAS SHORT-LIVED! I DREADED THE TWO MORE TESTS THAT LAY AHEAD! AND, MOMENTS LATER, IN A SECOND ROOM..."



WONDER WHAT PLAYS HERE? THERE'S NO PROBLEM GETTING OUT! THE DOORWAY IS CLEAR!

"I MOVED TO IT QUICKLY, WARY OF SOME SORT OF TRICK WHEN SUDDENLY, THE STATUE ABOVE THE DOORWAY TOTTERED AND CRASHED..."

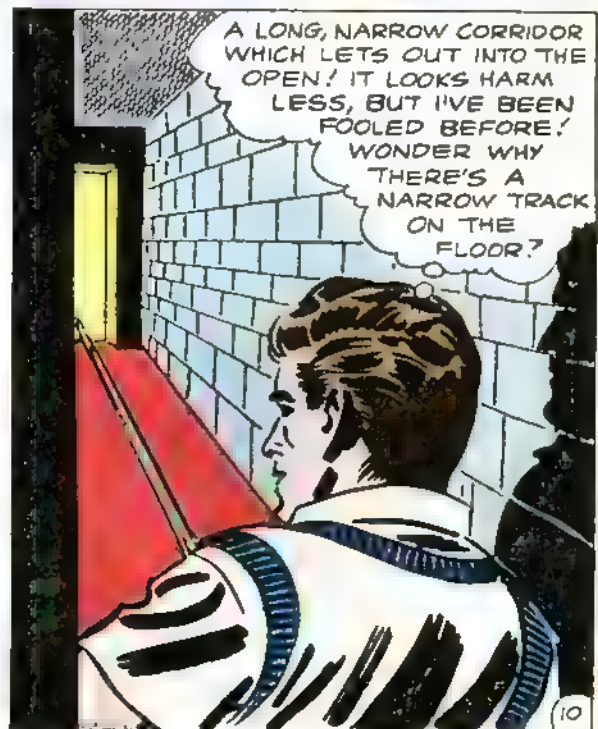
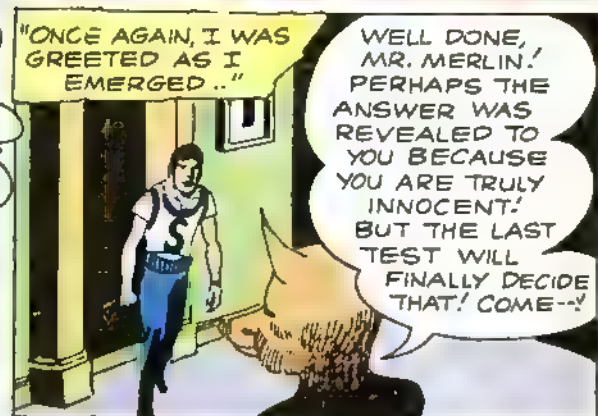
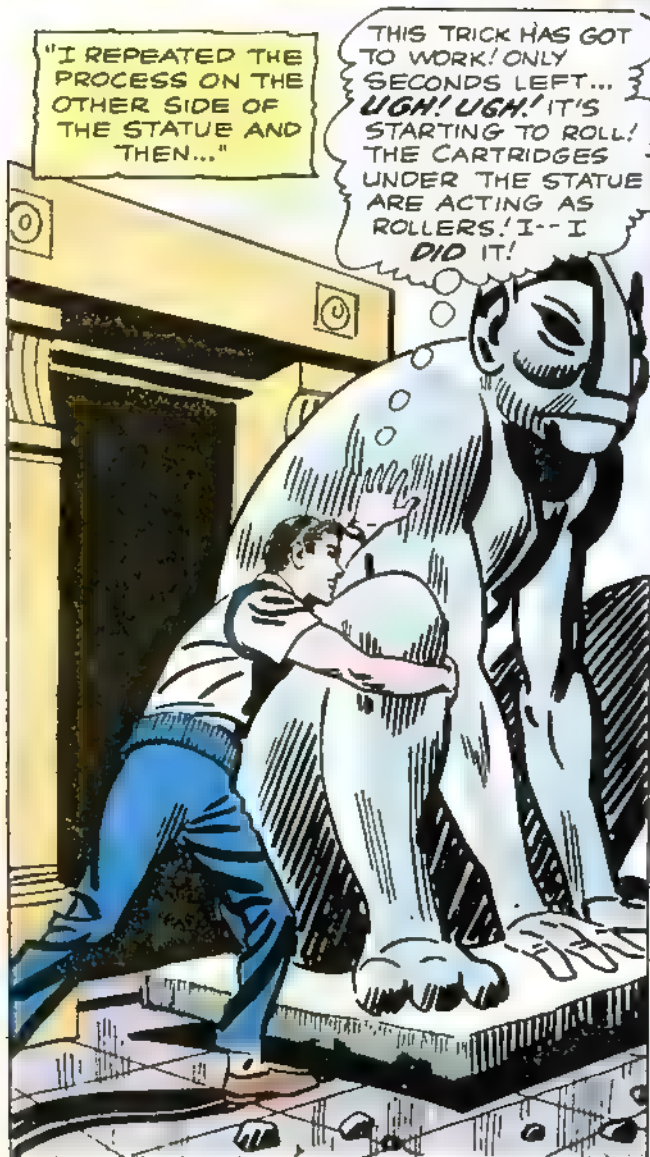
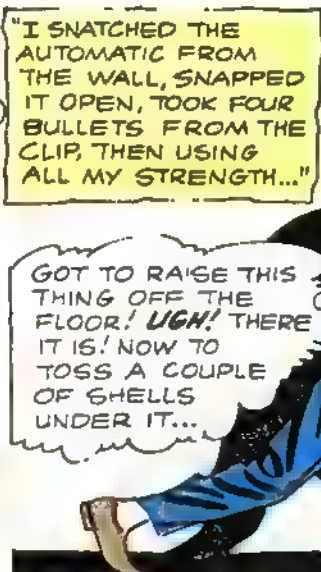
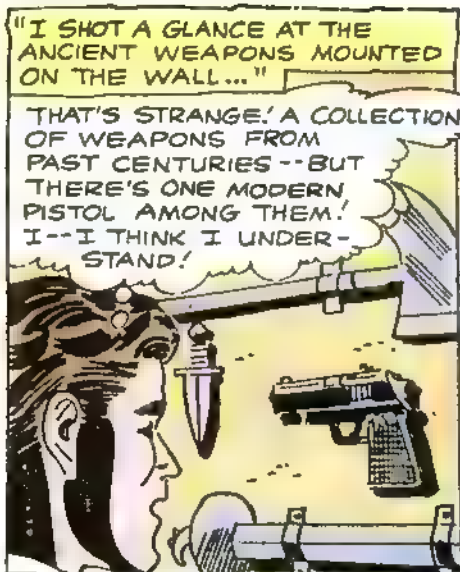


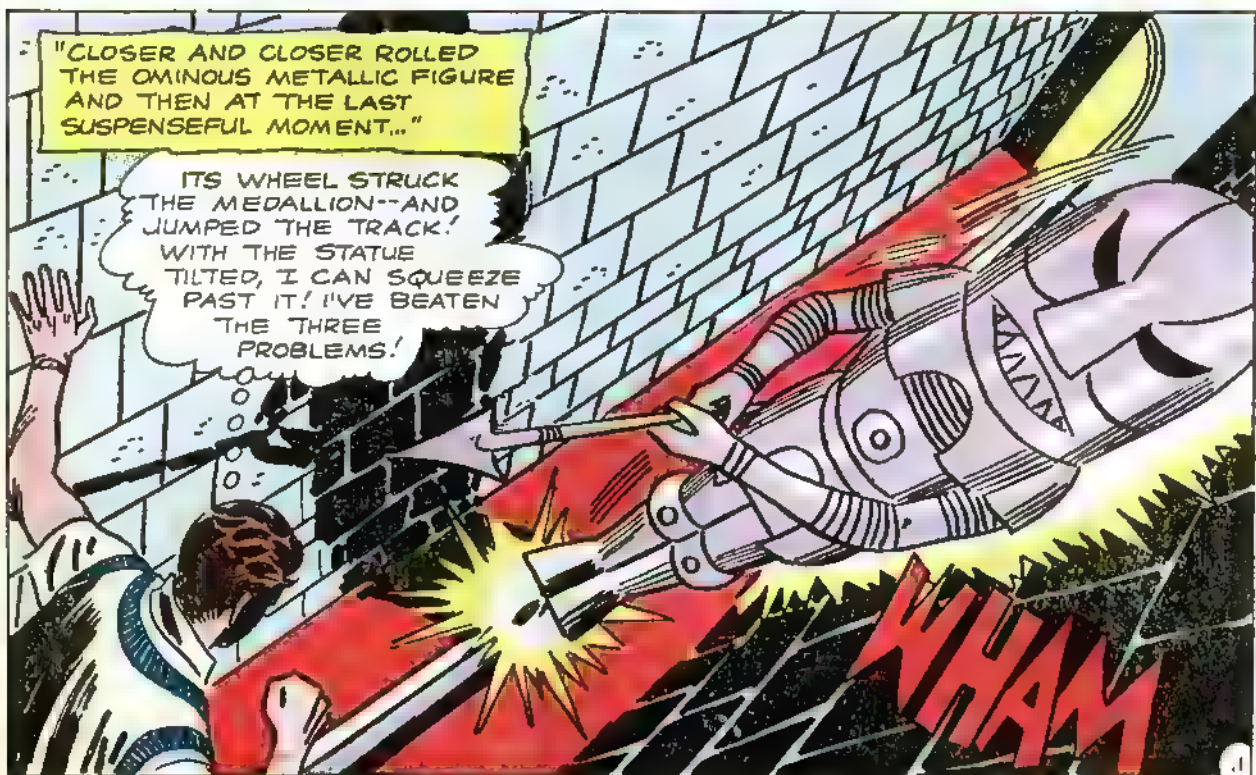
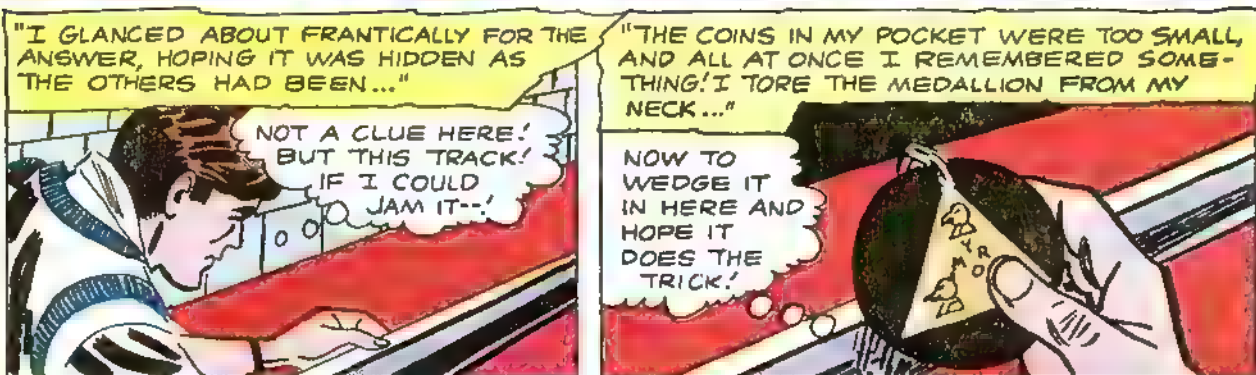
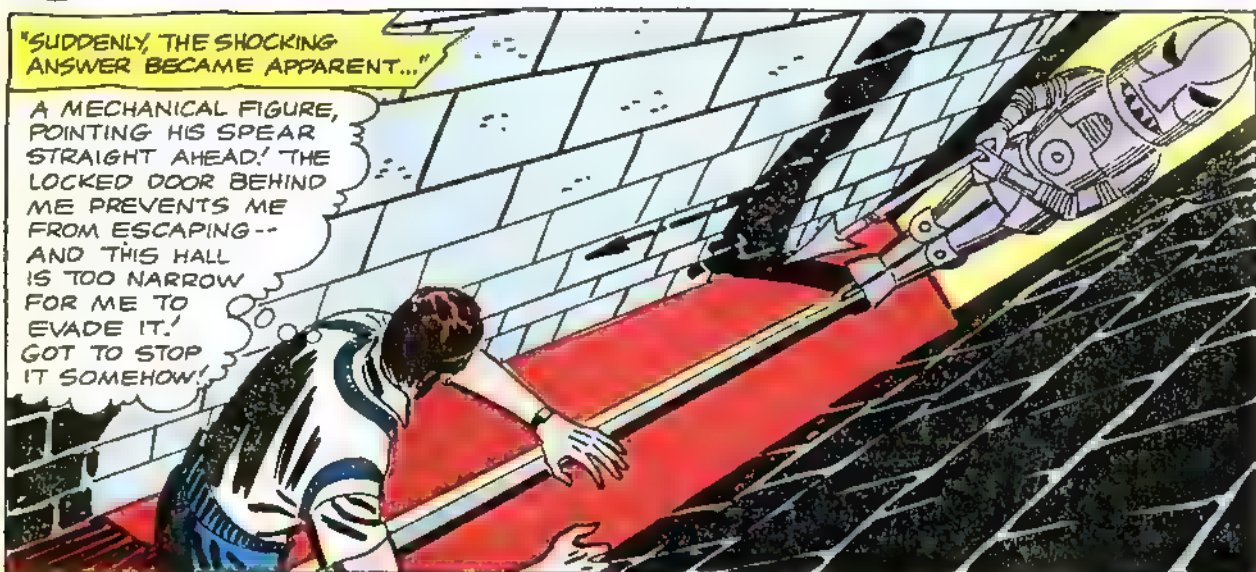
GREAT GODFREY! IT'S BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE!

CRASH

CA-CAN'T PUSH IT! NOW WHAT DO I DO...?









HOUSE OF SECRETS



"I DASHED OUT INTO THE DAYLIGHT..."

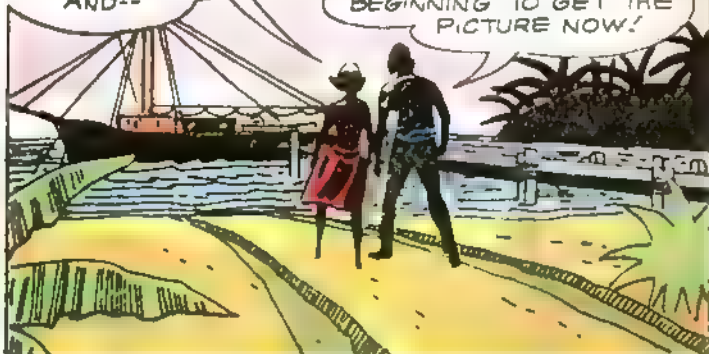
MARK MERLIN, YOU HAVE PASSED THE TEST AND ARE FREE TO GO! THERE IS A BOAT WAITING FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIEND FURTHER DOWN THE BEACH! COUNT MYRO MUST STAY, HOWEVER! WE HAVE A MISSION FOR HIM!



"ELSA AND I LOST NO TIME IN REACHING THE CRAFT"

IT'S INCREDIBLE, MARK! ONLY LAST NIGHT I WAS IN A CASTLE, SLEEPING MORE DEEPLY THAN I EVER HAD AND--

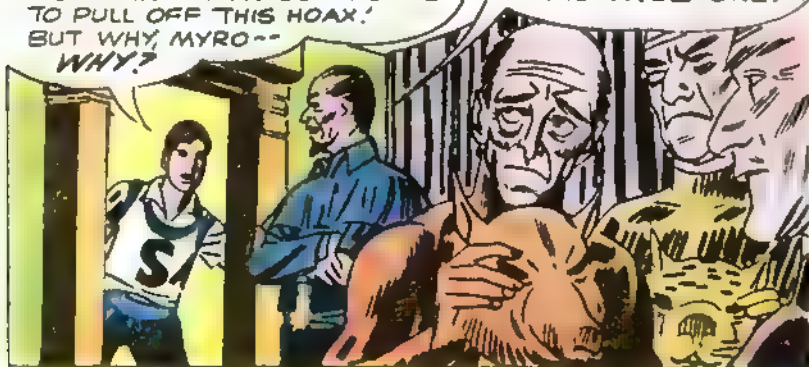
YOU FELT THAT TOO-- THAT SENSE OF DEEP SLEEP? I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND NOW! LOOK--THOSE TRACKS ON THE BEACH! I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE PICTURE NOW!



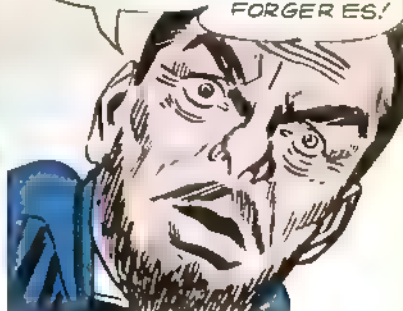
"I LEFT ELSA BEHIND AND DASHED BACK TO THE HOUSE..."

JUST AS I THOUGHT--YOU'RE NOTHING BUT COSTUMED MEN! YOU, MYRO, PUT A SLEEPING POTION IN OUR FOOD AND FLEW US HERE IN A PONTOON PLANE TO PULL OFF THIS HOAX! BUT WHY, MYRO-- WHY?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW, MERLIN! THE MEDALLION YOUR UNCLE FOUND WAS THE **TRUE** ONE!



I HAD TO DESTROY IT! FOR, AS LONG AS IT EXISTED, SOMEONE MIGHT CHALLENGE ME TO USE THE **TRUE** MEDALLION-- AND THAT WOULD DESTROY ME-- SINCE I'M NOT A GENUINE MYRO! THOSE PAPERS YOU SAW WERE FORGERIES!



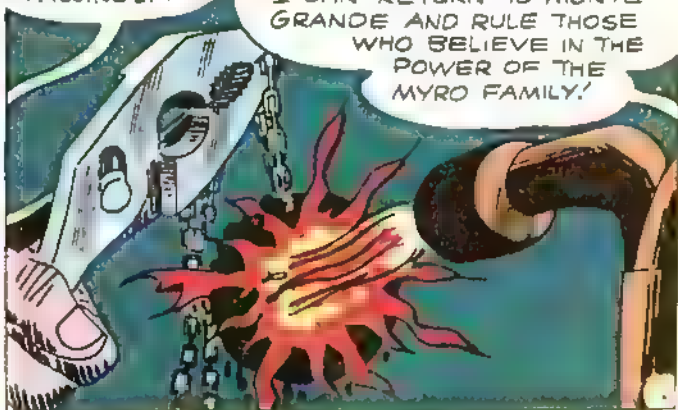
THEN YOU KILLED MY UNCLE TO GET THE MEDALLION FROM HIM! BUT HOW COULD YOU GET TO MY COUNTRY AND BACK IN 24 HOURS WHEN THERE ARE NO AIRFIELDS IN MONTE GRANDE?

I BUILT A SHORT RUNWAY BEHIND MY CASTLE! THE PLANE FLIES OUT INTO THE CANYON AND GAINS AIR POWER AS IT DROPS!



YOU CREATED THIS HOAX TO GET ME TO GIVE UP THE MEDALLION WILLINGLY?

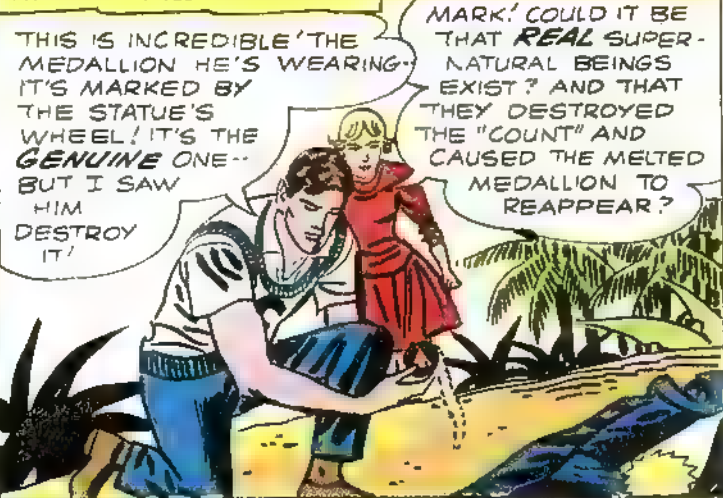
EXACTLY! LOOK, YOU CAN STILL SEE THE MARK MADE ON IT BY THE WHEEL! WELL, THIS IS THE END OF THE **TRUE** MEDALLION! NOW I CAN RETURN TO MONTE GRANDE AND RULE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE MYRO FAMILY!



"HELPLESSLY, WE WATCHED THE CRIMINALS TAKE TO THE AIR, WHEN..."



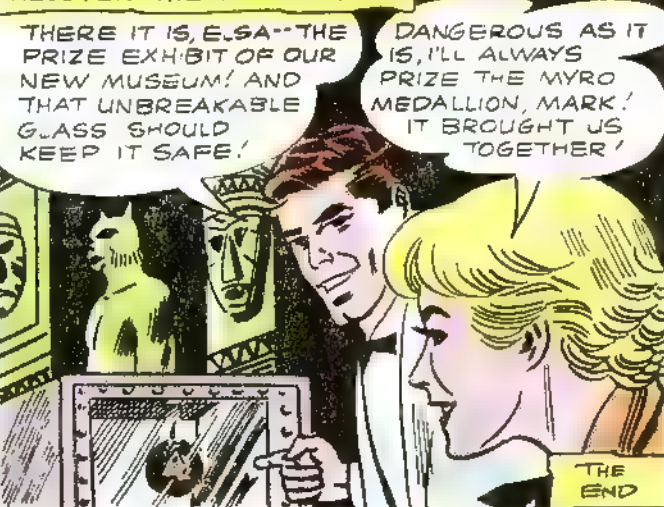
"SOMEHOW, THE OTHERS SURVIVED THE BLAST, BUT NOT THE KILLER-COUNT..."



I COULDN'T FIND THE ANSWER TO ELSA'S QUESTION, BUT I DETERMINED TO SPEND MY LIFE SOLVING THAT AND SIMILAR PUZZLES OF THE UNKNOWN!



LATER, AFTER POLICE SCOUR THE CITY AND RECOVER THE MEDALLION...



Here is Your **FORMULA** for a **NEW THRILL** in Comic Book Reading!

SCIENCE-FICTION *plus* SPORTS STORIES equals **STRANGE SPORTS** STORIES

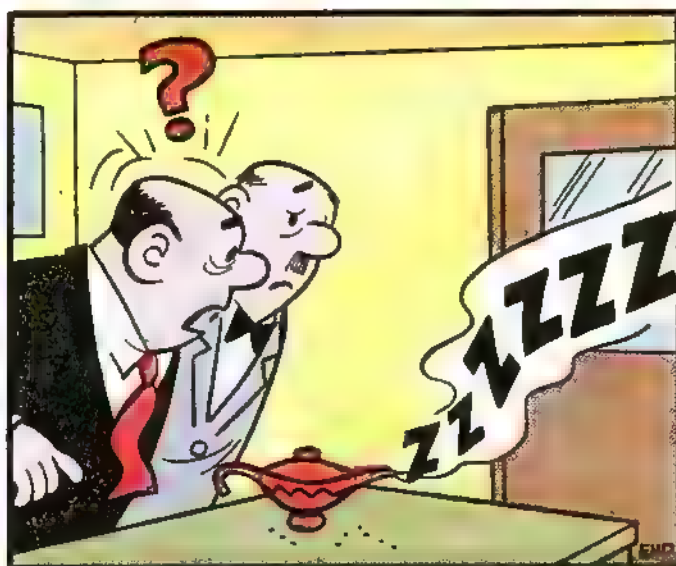
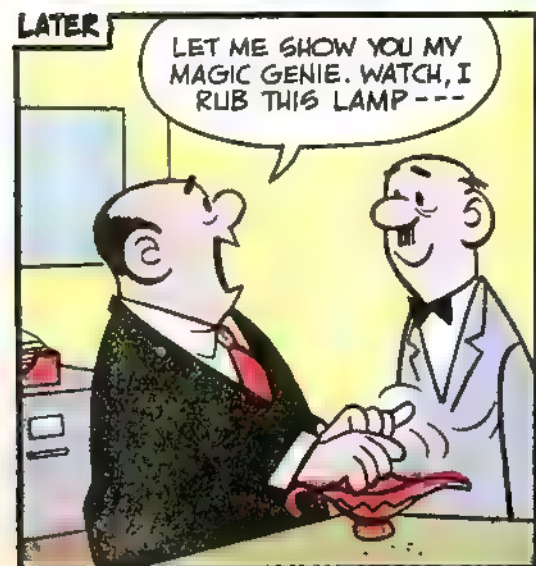
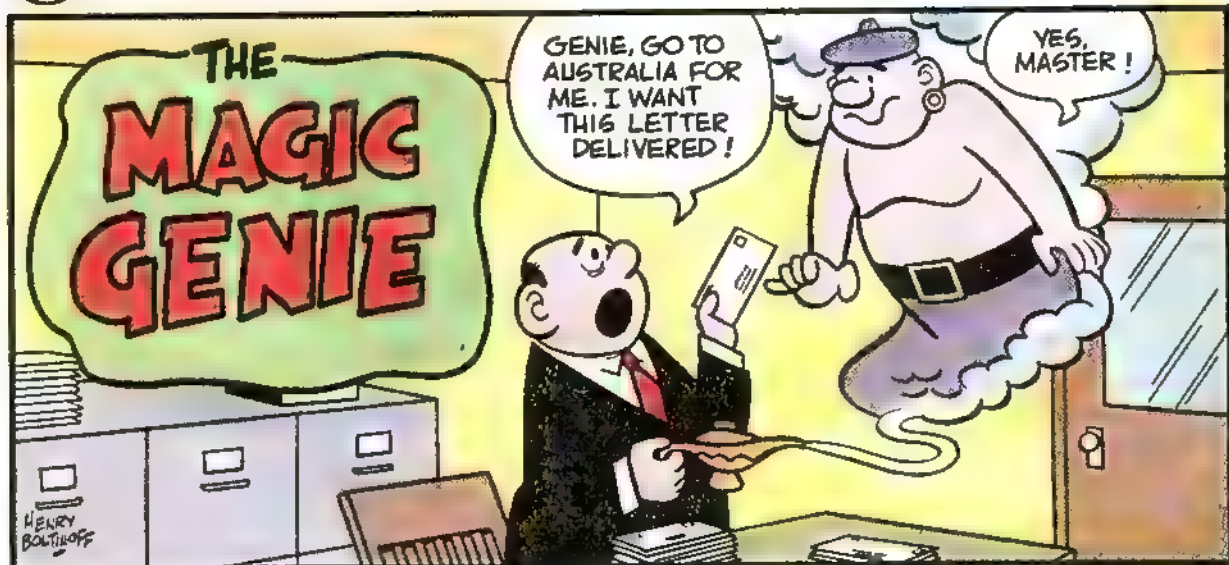
THANKS TO A NEW TECHNIQUE IN COMIC BOOK ILLUSTRATION, YOU CAN FLIP THE PAGES OF THIS MAGAZINE AND SEE A BASEBALL GAME-- A FOOTBALL GAME-- PLAYED BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

AND WHAT A BASEBALL GAME-- A "WORLDS" SERIES MATCH BETWEEN THE GREATEST CHAMPIONS OF EARTH AND A HEADLESS BASEBALL TEAM FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

AND WHAT A FOOTBALL GAME-- STARRING THE GREATEST PIGSKIN HERO OF ALL TIME-- "GOLIATH OF THE GRIDIRON!"

Remember, THE STRANGEST STORIES EVER TOLD-- APPEAR IN ...

THE BRAVE-BOLD ON SALE EVERYWHERE



TIME BOMB FROM 1500 A.D.

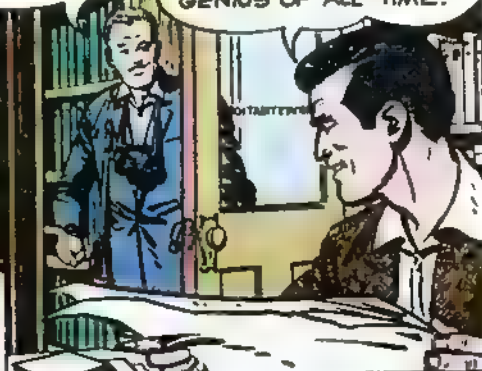
LEONARDO DA VINCI! HIS NAME AND THE WONDERS HE CREATED RING ACROSS THE CENTURIES! EVEN TODAY, THIS MASTER GENIUS COULD TEACH US ABOUT THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE! BUT WHEN HAL BREESE AND DAN SUMMERS STUMBLED ACROSS ONE OF LEONARDO'S LEGACIES, IT THREATENED TO EXPLODE IN THEIR FACES!



I WAS DOING SOME RESEARCH FOR A MAGAZINE STORY ON THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE WHEN MY PHOTOGRAPHER, DAN SUMMERS, ENTERED...

GOT SOME GOOD SHOTS OF ROME'S OLD MONUMENTS FROM THE HELICOPTER, HAL! WHAT'VE YOU GOT THERE?

CRYPTOGRAMS BY LEONARDO DA VINCI, CREATED MORE THAN FOUR CENTURIES AGO! HE WAS THE GREATEST GENIUS OF ALL TIME!



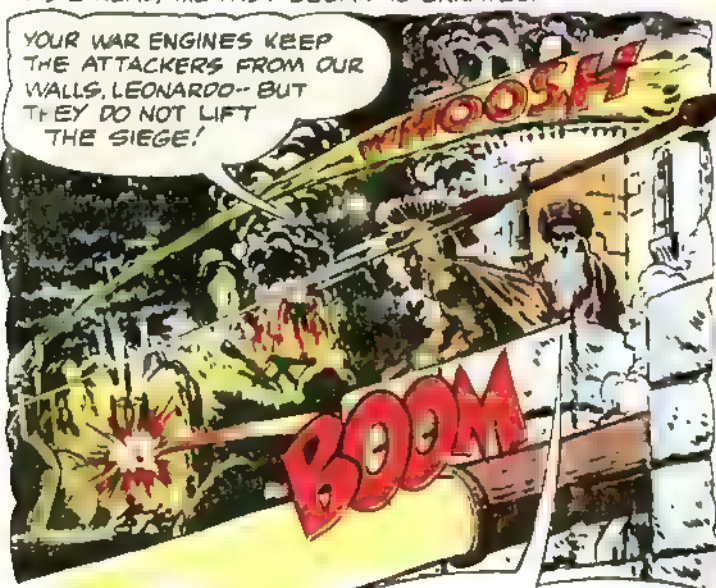
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THAT GOLD TRAIN AND ALL ITS PASSENGERS IS TO DESTROY THIS MASTERPIECE-IF THIS GOON DOESN'T STOP ME!

DO YOU REALIZE THAT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WE HAVE TODAY, LEONARDO THOUGHT OF? HOLD EVERYTHING! I'VE GOT THIS THING DECIPHERED... DANNY-BOY! THIS MAKES OUR REGULAR ASSIGNMENT LOOK TAME! LISTEN TO THIS!



AS I READ, THE PAST BEGAN TO UNRAVEL.

YOUR WAR ENGINES KEEP THE ATTACKERS FROM OUR WALLS, LEONARDO-- BUT THEY DO NOT LIFT THE SIEGE!



PATIENCE, SIRE! EVEN NOW I HASTEN TO MY CHAMBER TO COMPLETE MY GREATEST INVENTION! IT WILL MAKE YOUR VICTORY COMPLETE!

SOME TIME LATER...

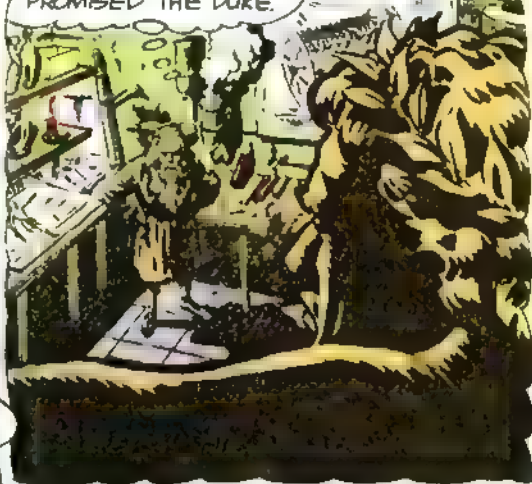
REST IN THE SEA'S EMBRACE--UNTIL A TIME WHEN MEN BECOME WISER AND USE YOUR POWER ONLY FOR GOOD!



AND SHORTLY...

IT IS FINISHED--BUT, ALAS--I AM SAD THAT MEN WILL USE ITS POWER FOR WAR... FOR EVIL! YET I PROMISED THE DUKE.

LEONARDO! A RELIEF ARMY APPROACHES FROM THE HILLS! OUR ENEMY FLEES! THE SIEGE IS LIFTED!



YOU THINK HIS INVENTION--WHAT-EVER IT IS--STILL LIES OFF THE COAST IN A TIME CAPSULE?

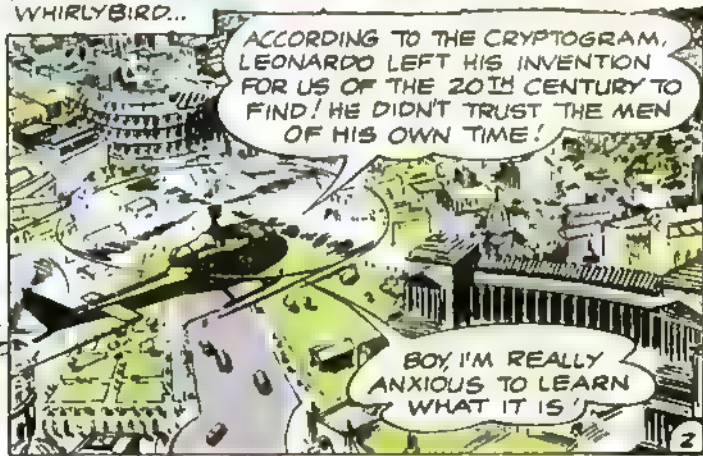
I DO--AND DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A FIND IT WOULD MAKE? DAN, WE MAY BE ON THE THRESHOLD OF MAKING ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DISCOVERIES! RELOAD YOUR CAMERAS, AND LET'S HIT THE ROAD!



AS WE SOARED OVER THE RUINS OF ROME IN OUR WHIRLYBIRD...

ACCORDING TO THE CRYPTOGRAM, LEONARDO LEFT HIS INVENTION FOR US OF THE 20TH CENTURY TO FIND! HE DIDN'T TRUST THE MEN OF HIS OWN TIME!

BOY, I'M REALLY ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHAT IT IS!



SHORTLY, OFF THE SERENE ITALIAN COAST...

THIS IS THE AREA THE CRYPTOGRAM INDICATED, AND OUR RENTED FISHING TRAWLER'S PERFECT FOR SALVAGING THE TIME CAPSULE --



IF IT'S STILL THERE AFTER FOUR CENTURIES!

WE SLIPPED A SLING HOIST AROUND THAT BARNACLED RELIC OF A BYGONE AGE AND FLIPPED BACK UPWARDS...

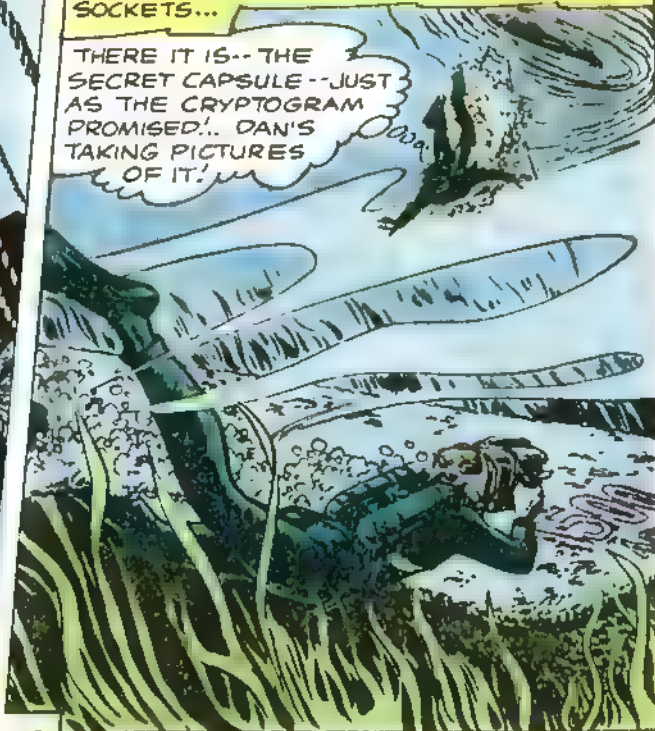
THE WINCH IS HAULING IT UP EASILY! IMAGINE, DAN-- WE FOUND IT!



I'LL GET A SHOT AS IT BREAKS THE SURFACE!

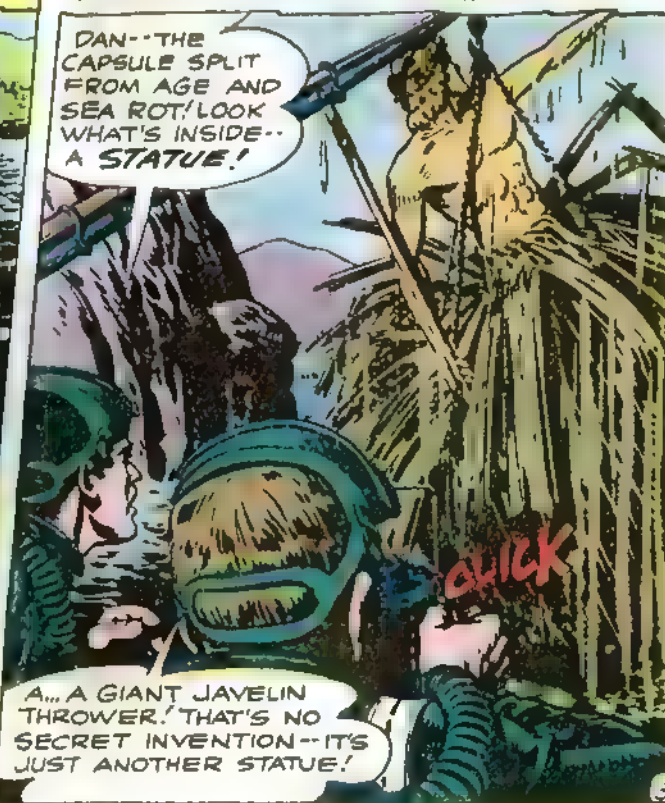
WE DIVED AND AT 20 FATHOMS, WE LEVELED OFF AND BEGAN SEARCHING! SUDDENLY, MY EYES ALMOST POPPED OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS...

THERE IT IS-- THE SECRET CAPSULE --JUST AS THE CRYPTOGRAM PROMISED!... DAN'S TAKING PICTURES OF IT!



THEN IT CAME, BURSTING INTO THE SUNLIGHT ONCE MORE, THE SECRET LEGACY OF THE GREATEST GENIUS OF ALL TIME...

DAN--THE CAPSULE SPLIT FROM AGE AND SEA ROT! LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE-- A STATUE!



A... A GIANT JAVELIN THROWER! THAT'S NO SECRET INVENTION--IT'S JUST ANOTHER STATUE!

THE SHOCK STUNNED US FOR A FEW MOMENTS...

BUT DAN, ANY STATUE BY LEONARDO IS A MASTERPIECE, A PRICELESS WORK OF ART! IT'S NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED--BUT IT'S STILL A FABULOUS FIND! KEEP SHOOTING! WHAT A STORY THIS WILL MAKE!



I HURRIEDLY FETCHED SOME TOOLS AND WENT TO WORK ON IT! TO MY SURPRISE, THE TAIL COULD BE REMOVED...

DAN--LOOK IN HERE! IT'S FILLED WITH CHEMICALS. AND... WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PRIMITIVE PROPULSION ENGINE!

YOU MEAN LIKE A MODERN-DAY JET, HAL?

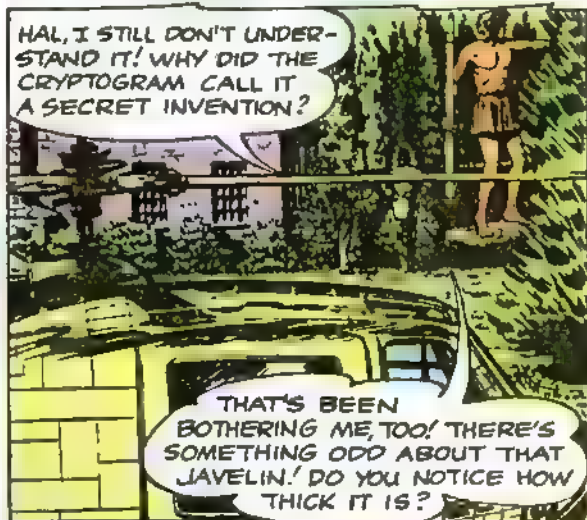


WE DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN--BUT OTHER EYES THAN OURS WERE WATCHING THE STATUE EMERGE FROM THE SEA'S UNCARING DEPTHS...



BY THE NEXT DAY, WE HAD REMOVED THE STATUE TO A SECLUDED LOCATION...

HAL, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WHY DID THE CRYPTOGRAM CALL IT A SECRET INVENTION?



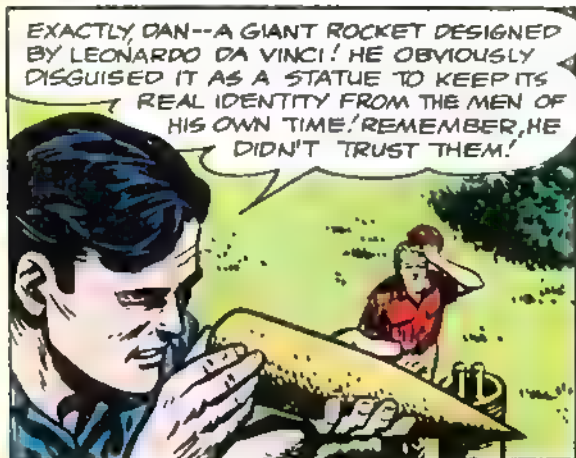
THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME, TOO! THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THAT JAVELIN! DO YOU NOTICE HOW THICK IT IS?

I SCRAMBLED TO THE TOP AND QUICKLY UNFASTENED THE TIP...

IT'S LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES--GUNPOWDER, AND SOME CHEMICAL I CAN'T IDENTIFY!



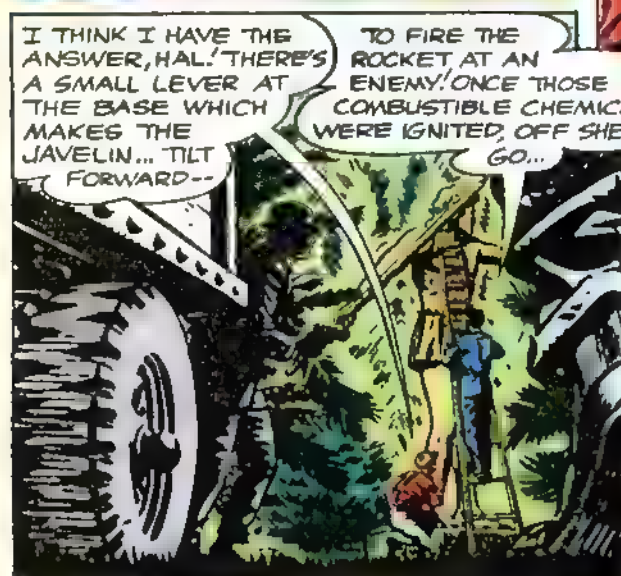
A JET ENGINE TO PUSH IT... AND AN EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD IN ITS NOSE! DO YOU THINK THIS THING IS SOME KIND OF ROCKET?



EXACTLY, DAN--A GIANT ROCKET DESIGNED BY LEONARDO DA VINCI! HE OBVIOUSLY DISGUISED IT AS A STATUE TO KEEP ITS REAL IDENTITY FROM THE MEN OF HIS OWN TIME! REMEMBER, HE DIDN'T TRUST THEM!

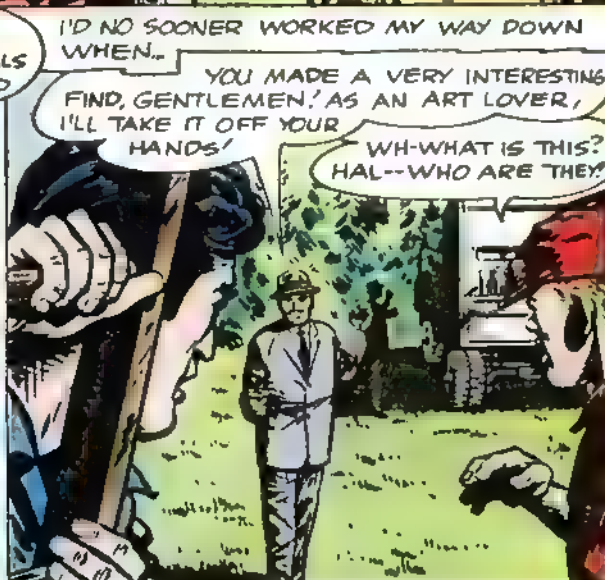


BUT ONE THING PUZZLES ME! IF HE DESIGNED THE ROCKET TO BREAK THE SIEGE-- WHY DOES IT POINT TO THE SKY?



I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER, HAL! THERE'S A SMALL LEVER AT THE BASE WHICH MAKES THE JAVELIN... TILT FORWARD--

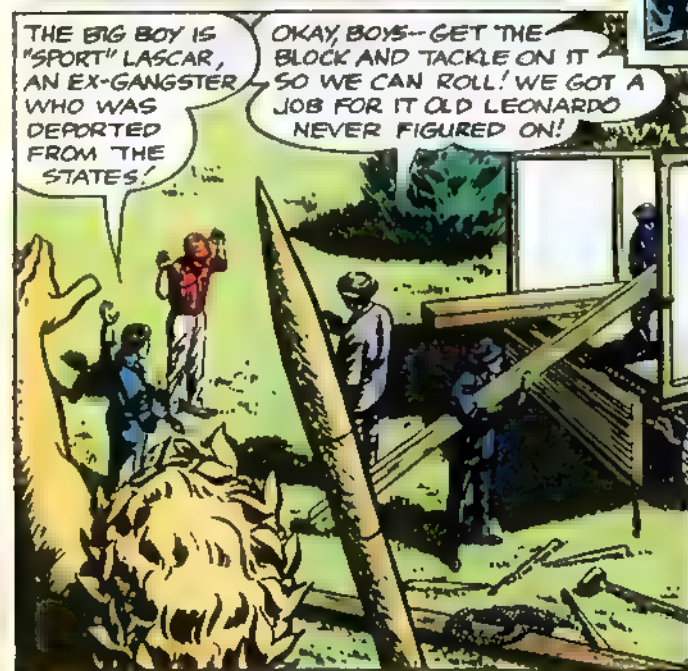
TO FIRE THE ROCKET AT AN ENEMY! ONCE THOSE COMBUSTIBLE CHEMICALS WERE IGNITED, OFF SHE'D GO...



I'D NO SOONER WORKED MY WAY DOWN WHEN...

YOU MADE A VERY INTERESTING FIND, GENTLEMEN! AS AN ART LOVER, I'LL TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS!

WH-WHAT IS THIS? HAL--WHO ARE THEY?

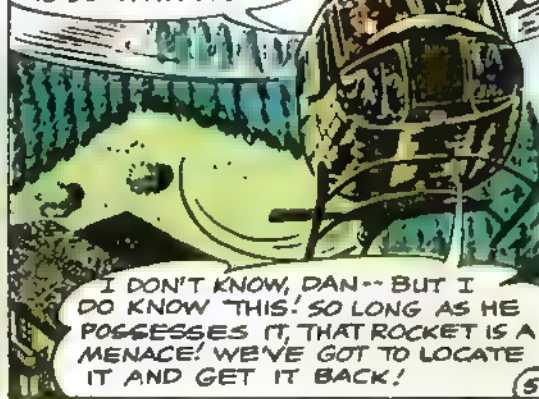


THE BIG BOY IS "SPORT" LASCAR, AN EX-GANGSTER WHO WAS DEPORTED FROM THE STATES!

OKAY, BOYS-- GET THE BLOCK AND TACKLE ON IT SO WE CAN ROLL! WE GOT A JOB FOR IT OLD LEONARDO NEVER FIGURED ON!

AFTER THEY LEFT, WE LOST NO TIME IN NOTIFYING THE POLICE AND HOPPING INTO OUR 'COPTER...

LASCAR MUST'VE BEEN WATCHING US ALL THE TIME! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO DO WITH IT?



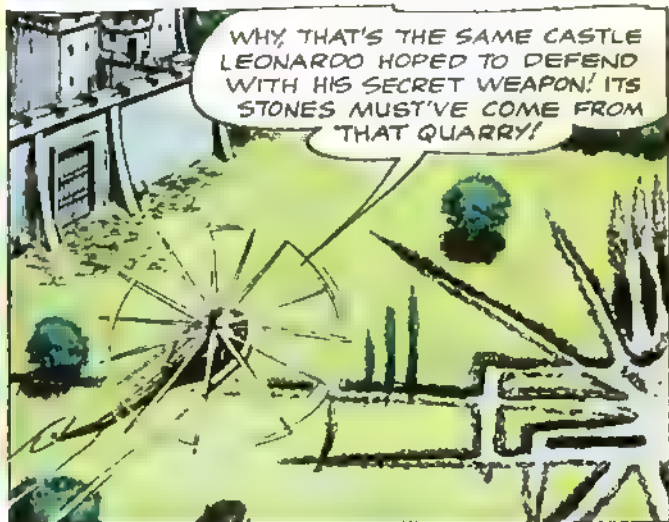
I DON'T KNOW, DAN-- BUT I DO KNOW THIS! SO LONG AS HE POSSESSES IT, THAT ROCKET IS A MENACE! WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE IT AND GET IT BACK!

FOR HOURS, WE WHIRLED ABOVE THE COUNTRYSIDE, SEARCHING UNTIL OUR EYES ACHED, AND THEN...



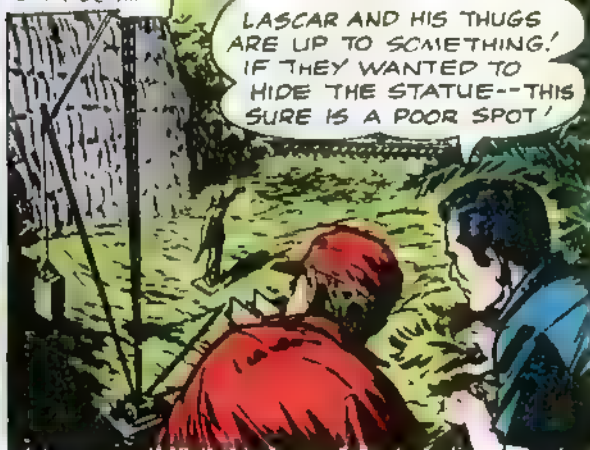
HAL! THERE IT IS-- DOWN THERE IN THAT MARBLE QUARRY!

I SWERVED SHARPLY, LOOKING FOR A LANDING AREA, HOPING WE HADN'T BEEN SPOTTED...



WHY THAT'S THE SAME CASTLE LEONARDO HOPED TO DEFEND WITH HIS SECRET WEAPON! ITS STONES MUST'VE COME FROM THAT QUARRY!

BUT MY THOUGHTS WERE ON OTHER, URGENT THINGS AS WE SLIPPED TOWARD THE QUARRY ON FOOT...



LASCAR AND HIS THUGS ARE UP TO SOMETHING! IF THEY WANTED TO HIDE THE STATUE--THIS SURE IS A POOR SPOT!

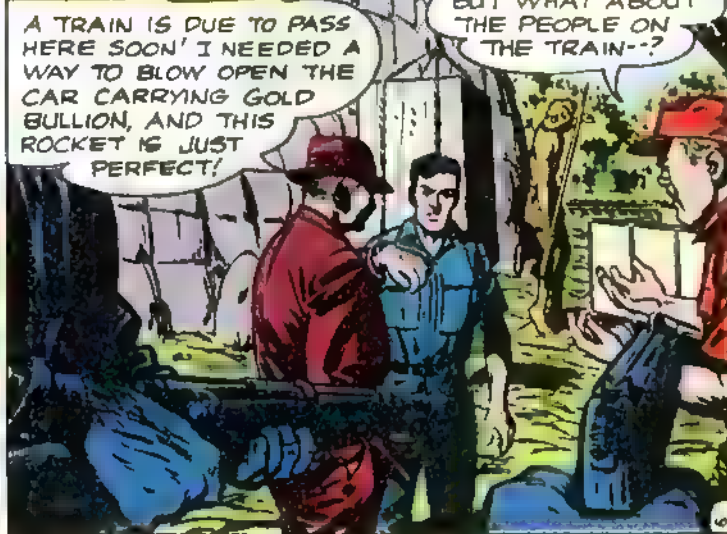
WE WERE SO INTENT ON THE SCENE BELOW, WE DIDN'T HEAR LASCAR'S LOOKOUT SLIP UP BEHIND US...



YOU FELLERS WANT A CLOSER VIEW? WALK DOWN INTO THE QUARRY! LASCAR WILL BE GLAD TO GIVE IT TO YOU!

BETTER DO AS HE SAYS!

LASCAR WASN'T SURPRISED BY OUR VISIT AND CHEERFULLY EXPLAINED...



A TRAIN IS DUE TO PASS HERE SOON! I NEEDED A WAY TO BLOW OPEN THE CAR CARRYING GOLD BULLION, AND THIS ROCKET IS JUST PERFECT!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE ON THE TRAIN--?



HOUSE OF SECRETS



LASCAR REPLIED WITH A SHRUG...

LASCAR! I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! IF THAT STATUE'S ARM IS SET FORWARD TO FIRE THE ROCKET, WE MAY ALL BE KILLED!

YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT? BOYS-- START AIMING THE ROCKET! THE TRAIN'S DUE ANY MINUTE!



THE TERRIBLE TRUTH I'D JUST GRASPED MEANT I HAD TO ACT-FAST! I SIGNALLED TO DAN--AND NEXT MOMENT...

HE'S GOING TO TRY TO WARN THE TRAIN! AFTER HIM!

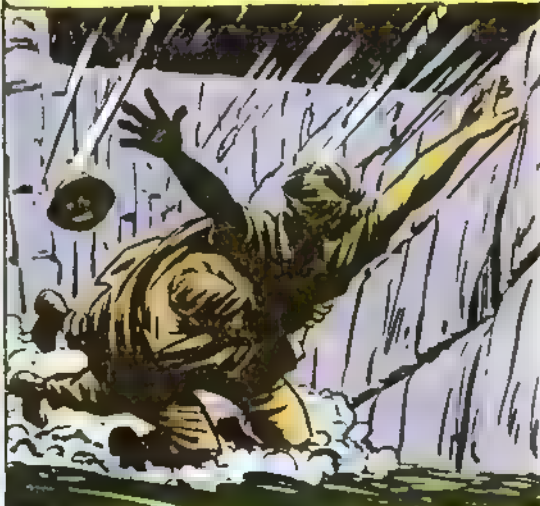


WHILE GOOD OLD DAN DREW THEIR ATTENTION, I LEAPED TOWARD THE SWINGING BOOM ARM USED TO LIFT BLOCKS OUT OF THE QUARRY.

GOT TO START THIS THING MOVING BEFORE LASCAR NAILS ME!



MY TIMING WAS PERFECT! I WAS ABLE TO START THE MARBLE BLOCK ON THE BOOM SWINGING STRAIGHT TOWARD THE JAVELIN'S TIP JUST BEFORE I WAS TACKLED...



WHEN THE ARM REACHED A HORIZONTAL POSITION...

LOCKED TOGETHER, I USED ALL MY STRENGTH TO ROLL US AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE...

WHRRRRRR

... BECAUSE INSTANTS LATER...



SOMEHOW, WE ALL SURVIVED THAT TERRIFIC BLAST, AND DAN HAD GOTTEN THE DROP ON LASCAR'S BUDDIES...

THE STATUE. WHAT MADE IT EXPLODE LIKE THAT?

A TIME BOMB FROM 1500 A.D.! OLD LEONARDO HID ONE INSIDE IT! HE WANTED THE ROCKET FIRED STRAIGHT UP INTO SPACE--AS A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT!



WE TURNED LASCAR AND HIS PALS OVER TO THE POLICE, WHO'D RACED TO THE SCENE AT THE SOUND OF THAT TERRIFIC BLAST...

HAL, HOW'D YOU KNOW LEONARDO PLANTED A TIME BOMB IN THAT STATUE?

AFTER THAT SIEGE, HE DESIGNED IRRIGATION CANALS AROUND THE CASTLE--ARRANGED TO SPELL OUT A WARNING OF THE BOMB AND HOW IT COULD BE SET OFF. I NOTICED IT WHEN WE LANDED HERE--AND FIGURED IT OUT JUST IN TIME!



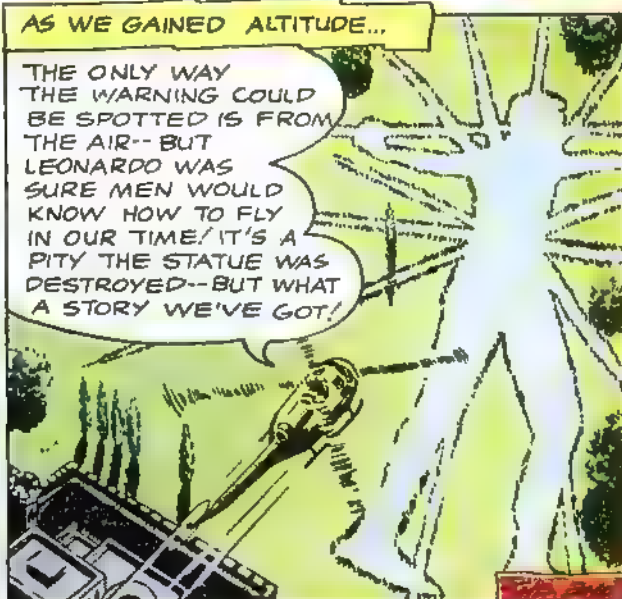
BUT IF ANYONE WITH EVIL IDEAS COCKED THE JAVELIN FORWARD TO FIRE IT HORIZONTALLY AT A "TARGET," THE WHOLE THING WOULD EXPLODE! HE REALLY DIDN'T TRUST MODERN MEN ANY MORE THAN HE DID MEN OF HIS OWN TIME!

THERE GOES THE GOLD TRAIN--SAFE AND SOUND!



AS WE GAINED ALTITUDE...

THE ONLY WAY THE WARNING COULD BE SPOTTED IS FROM THE AIR--BUT LEONARDO WAS SURE MEN WOULD KNOW HOW TO FLY IN OUR TIME. IT'S A PITY THE STATUE WAS DESTROYED--BUT WHAT A STORY WE'VE GOT!



HI! I'm **JOHNNY DC**, THE MASCOT AT SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATIONS.

Every year, one of my greatest pleasures is looking forward to reading the Annual Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer Magazine... This year I'm getting a real treat. We have published a **GIANT ANNUAL**, starring Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, in three complete novelettes plus Games and Puzzles aplenty! You might say it's more fun than a barrel of monkeys... a Triple-Pleasure Treasure!

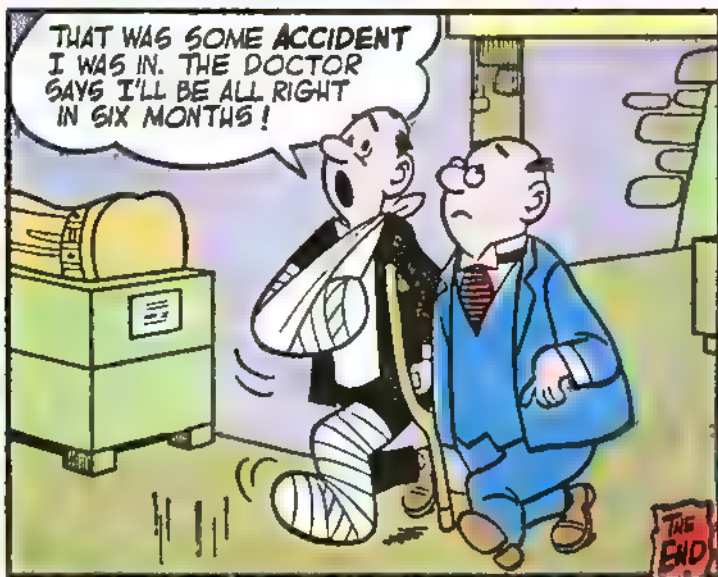
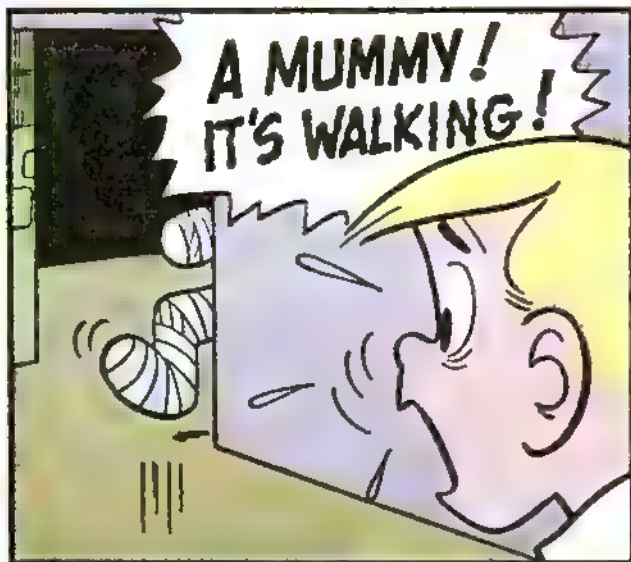
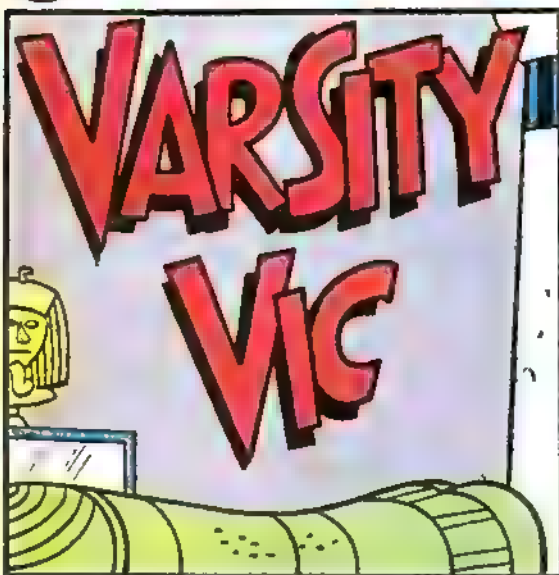
Give yourself a real CHRISTMAS PRESENT! And get some extra copies as gifts for your friends!

The **GIANT Rudolph** ANNUAL... **RED-NOSED REINDEER**



NOW ON SALE WHEREVER THE **BEST** COMICS MAGAZINES ARE SOLD!







Mark Merlin's Mailbox

Dear Mark: In combining a business trip with pleasure next summer, my father has promised to take the family to London. He claims there is a magic museum on the Isle of Man and will make a detour so we can visit it. Can you tell me anything about it?

Bob F., New York City

The Museum of Magic & Witchcraft is on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, about half way between Ireland and England. The island is 33 miles long, inhabited by 48,000 persons, and is rich in folklore. The museum is owned and operated by 77-year-old Dr. Gerald Gardner, who professes to have the powers of a witch although he's never exercised them. Through the centuries, many witch trials were held, says Dr. Gardner in a booklet prepared for visitors. "The favorite verdict was—not guilty, but do not try it again." Despite persecution, witchcraft has never died. Dr. Gardner himself was initiated into a British witch coven, which consists of 13 witches with a woman, by tradition, the leader.

What does the museum contain? Magic wands, consecrated swords, a "riding staff," herbs, oils and other objects favored by witches. In one showcase are objects designed to ward off the evil eye. Inhabitants of the Isle of Man, known as Mauxmen, do not take witchcraft seriously, but superstitiously doff their hats to "the little people" when they cross Fairy Bridge near the capital of Douglas. Those who have ignored recognition have been known to suffer flat tires and other auto mishaps. One visitor who had failed to observe the ritual, sent a letter to the postmaster, requesting that it be tacked onto the bridge. The request was complied with, but next day the letter was mysteriously gone. Although most Mauxmen scoff at the witches' myths, many "honest and reliable residents" have reported seeing ghosts, charms are widely used, and superstitions survive.

* * *

Dear Mark: A bit of information my fellow-readers might wish to know. The number four is considered unlucky in much of the Orient. It is associated with death, and just as in our country some office buildings pretend that they have no 13th story, Asian buildings ignore the fourth.

Roberta Lessing, Los Angeles

* * *

Dear Mark: I'd like to express well-deserved praise to your top artist, Mort Meskin. I recall with fond admiration his work on "Black Terror," "Fighting Yank," and a few others back in the 1940s. In my estimation, Mort's art had more color and dynamism in earlier work, but

it still abounds in unique style and powerful impact. He's always been, and still is, particularly adept with the cabalistic type of story, and I thoroughly enjoy Mark Merlin. Thanks for a fine magazine!

Ronn Foss, Suisan (Rockville) Calif.

* * *

Dear Mark: My music teacher claims that Jacques Halevy's opera, "Charles VI," is not being presented any longer because of a superstition attached to it. It seems that in the past, death always accompanied its showing. Can you supply any details?

Pete O'B., Dayton, Ohio

The opera was completed in 1843, but it wasn't until seven years later that on three successive nights, someone in the audience dropped dead after a singer rendered the aria, "O Heaven, Kill Him!" Authorities banned the work until 1858 when Napoleon III ordered a revival that he and the Empress were to attend. En route, their coach was bombed. They escaped injury, but several others were killed by the blast. The performance was cancelled, and the opera was never offered again.

* * *

Dear Mark: Bravo for the improvements in HOUSE OF SECRETS; a decent "logo" or title for Mark Merlin; a letters column; doing away with the time-consuming lead-splash and using different size panels instead; and, of course, using the unique talents of Lee Elias, who is the best illustrator to appear in all mystery magazines.

Paul Gambaccini, Westport, Conn.

Unfortunately, Lee can't be with us in each issue because he's illustrating Tommy Tomorrow appearing in SHOWCASE. But we were able to get him to do the art work for the 4-page surprise story in this issue, "The Wondrous Witch's Cauldron."

* * *

Dear Mark: Since I always associate spiders with mysterioso, which is the theme of our magazine, can you tell me how a spider disposes of his old web?

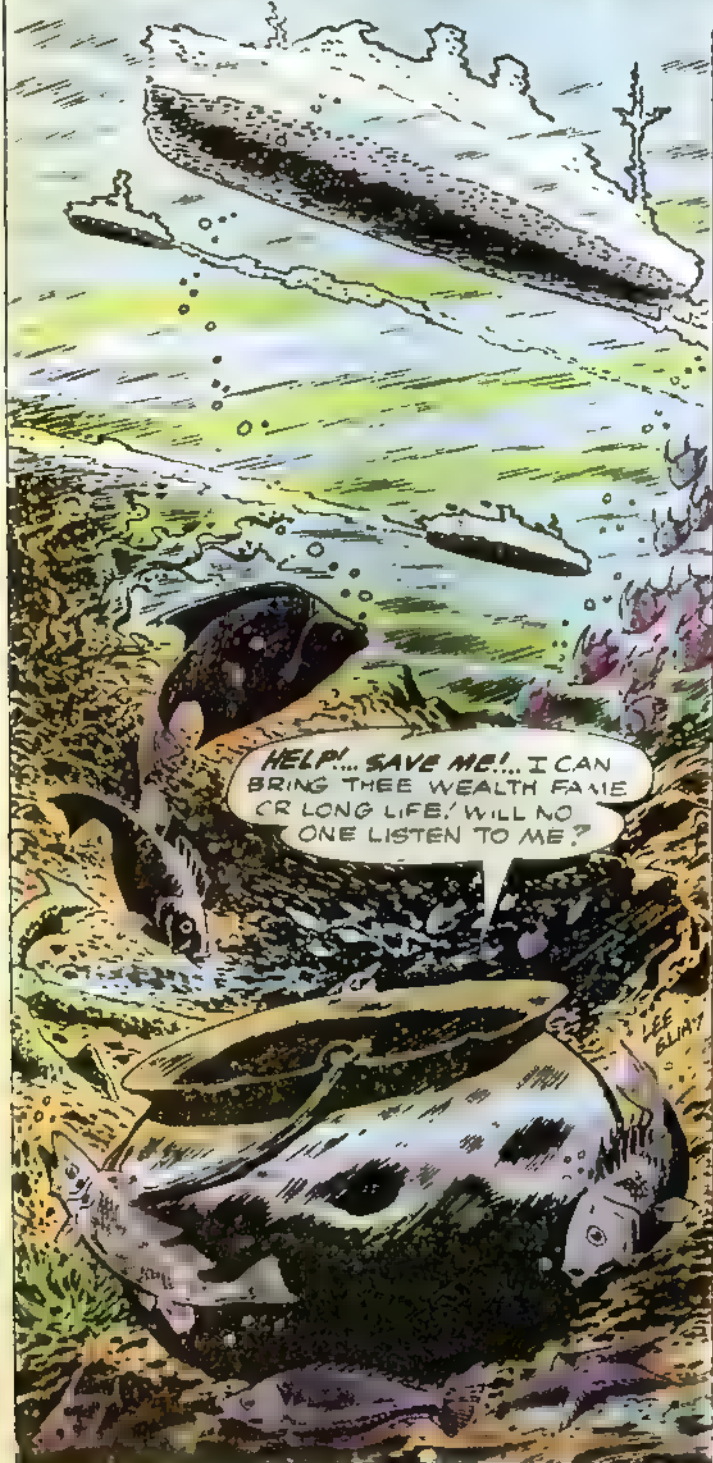
Orville Bancroft, Plaindale, Ind.

A spider usually eats its web after it's been damaged, or dismantles it so the materials can be used to spin another web. The web is never destroyed because it has elements which are preferred to new materials.

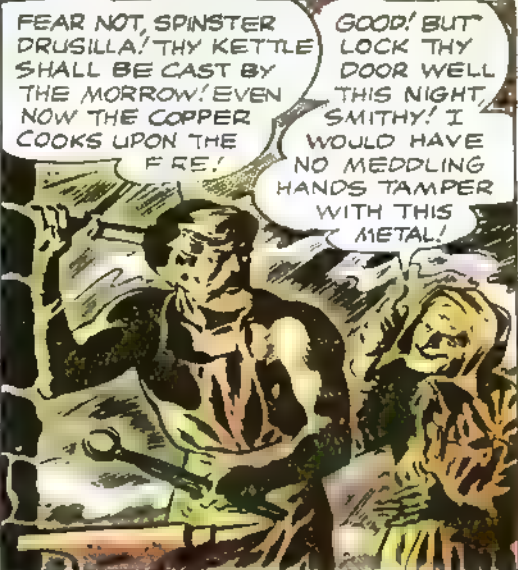
Address all communications to MARK MERLIN, House of Secrets, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

THEE OUT THERE! HEAR ME WELL! I REST DOWN HERE, FAR BELOW THE GREAT METROPOLIS, AMID THE STYGIAN WATERS AND GIANT IRON SHIPS--A PRISONER OF THIS MURKY M'DRASS! YET I HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE! FOR, MISTAKE IT NOT, I AM NO MERE COPPER VESSEL, NO BATTERED KETTLE GOOD FOR NAUGHT BUT KITCHEN LABORS! INDEED, I AM..

the WONDROUS WITCH'S CAULDRON



HOW CAME I, A THING OF SUCH SUPERNATURAL TALENTS, TO SO LOW AN ESTATE? PRITHEE, LET ME EXPLAIN! LONG AGO, IN OLD ENGLAND.



'T WAS ONLY DRUSILLA'S LITTLE JOKE TO B.D THE SMITH LOCK HIS DOOR FOR, THAT VERY NIGHT...





HOUSE OF SECRETS

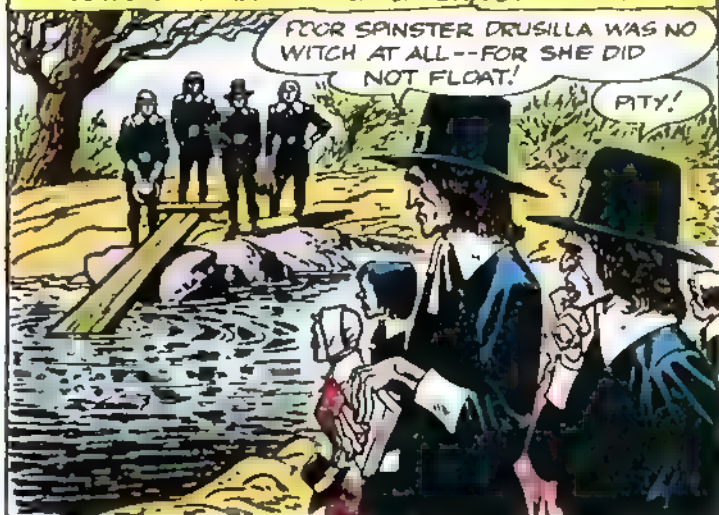


INSIDE THE SMITHY'S SHOP, DRUSILLA EMPTIED A STRANGE, EVIL-SMELLING POWDER INTO THE BOILING METAL...



WHO OWNS THIS CAULDRON SHALL ONE DAY CLAIM WEALTH, LONG LIFE OR WORLDLY FAME! HEE-HEE-NEE!

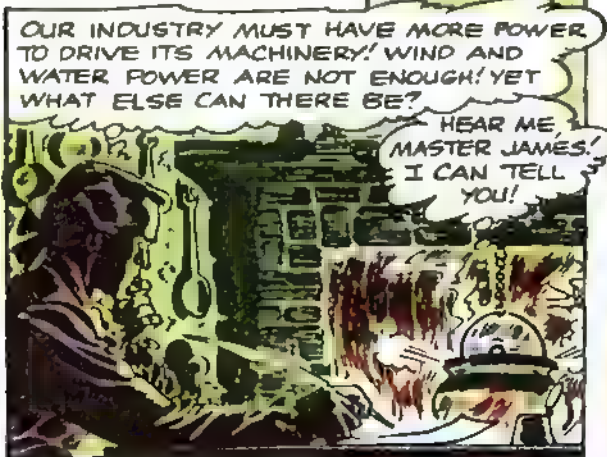
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, DRUSILLA DID NOT LIVE TO USE THE POWERS OF HER OWN CAULDRON, FOR ONE SAD DAY...



POOR SPINSTER DRUSILLA WAS NO WITCH AT ALL--FOR SHE DID NOT FLOAT!

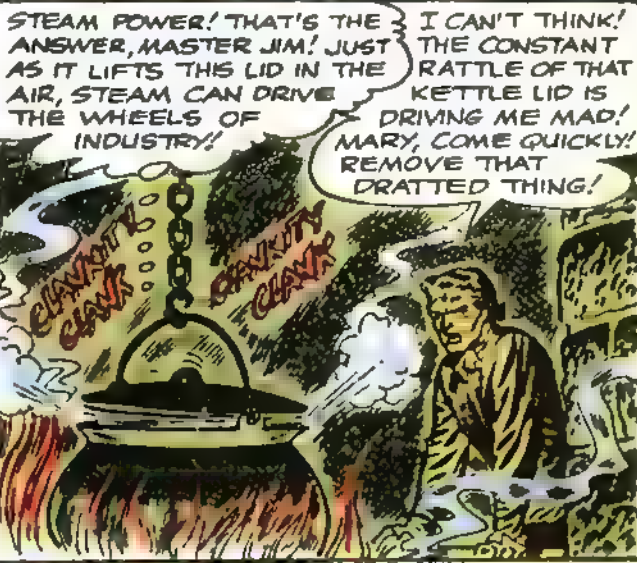
PITY!

WITH DRUSILLA GONE, I WAS SOLD INTO KITCHEN SERVICE AND WENT FROM HOME TO HOME OVER THE YEARS. THEN ONE DAY, IN THE 18TH CENTURY...



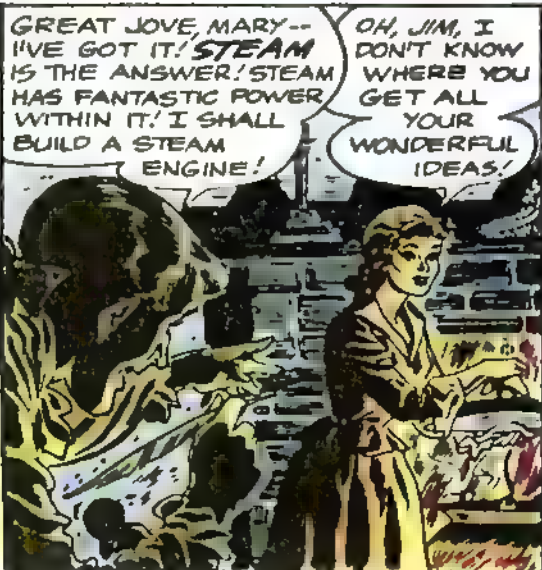
OUR INDUSTRY MUST HAVE MORE POWER TO DRIVE ITS MACHINERY! WIND AND WATER POWER ARE NOT ENOUGH! YET WHAT ELSE CAN THERE BE?

HEAR ME, MASTER JAMES! I CAN TELL YOU!



STEAM POWER! THAT'S THE ANSWER, MASTER JIM! JUST AS IT LIFTS THIS LID IN THE AIR, STEAM CAN DRIVE THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY!

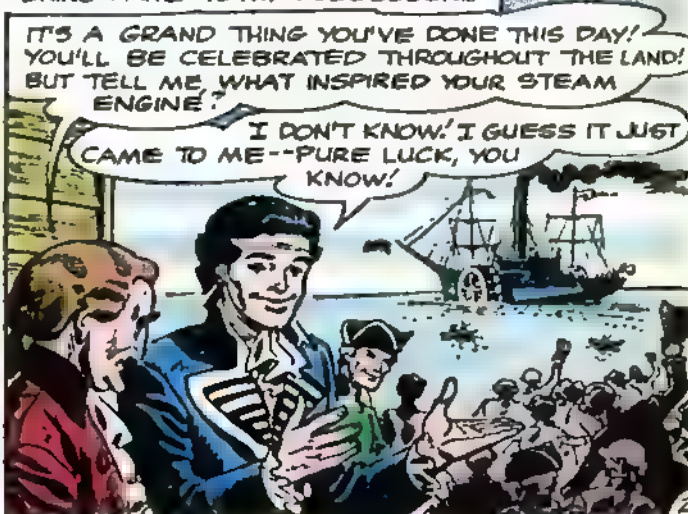
I CAN'T THINK! THE CONSTANT RATTLE OF THAT KETTLE LID IS DRIVING ME MAD! MARY, COME QUICKLY! REMOVE THAT DRA-TEDD THING!



GREAT JOVE, MARY-- I'VE GOT IT! STEAM IS THE ANSWER! STEAM HAS FANTASTIC POWER WITHIN IT! I SHALL BUILD A STEAM ENGINE!

OH, JIM, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET ALL YOUR WONDERFUL IDEAS!

AND SO, AS DRUSILLA HAD PROCLAIMED, I WAS TO BRING FAME TO MY POSSESSOR...



IT'S A GRAND THING YOU'VE DONE THIS DAY! YOU'LL BE CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE LAND! BUT TELL ME, WHAT INSPIRED YOUR STEAM ENGINE?

I DON'T KNOW! I GUESS IT JUST CAME TO ME--PURE LUCK, YOU KNOW!

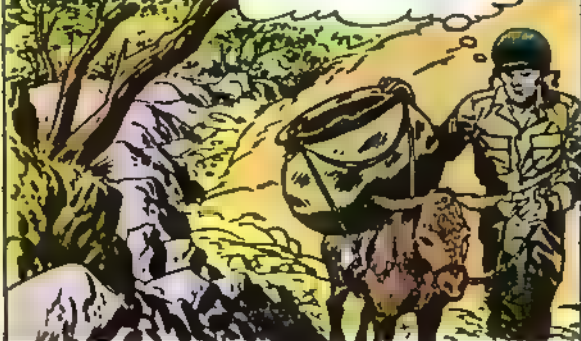


HOUSE OF SECRETS



THIS WAS MY SAD FATE! THOSE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ENJOY MY BLESSING NEVER RECOGNIZED MY POWERS! THUS, CENTURIES LATER, IN A WAR-TORN ITALIAN VALLEY...

THIS BEAT-UP KETTLE I FOUND WILL TURN OUT PLENTY OF CHOW! NOW MAYBE THE FELLERS WILL STOP GRIPIN' ABOUT SHORT RATIONS!



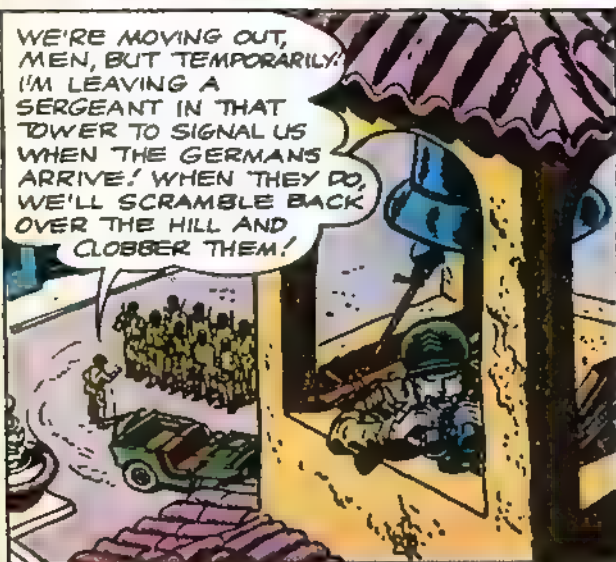
BUT AS HE REACHED HEADQUARTERS...

CORPORAL-- GRAB AN M-1! THE GERMANS ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE VALLEY!

LIEUTENANT, IF THIS ARMY IS DEPENDING ON US COOKS TO SHOOT-- WE'RE IN REAL TROUBLE!

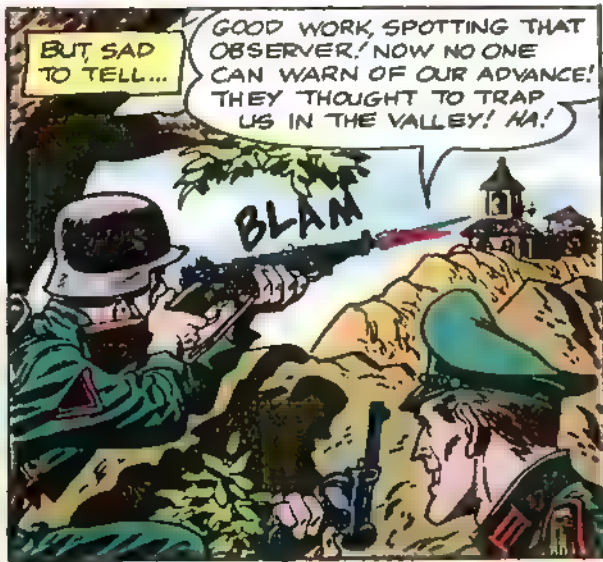


WE'RE MOVING OUT, MEN, BUT TEMPORARILY! I'M LEAVING A SERGEANT IN THAT TOWER TO SIGNAL US WHEN THE GERMANS ARRIVE! WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL SCRAMBLE BACK OVER THE HILL AND CLOBBER THEM!



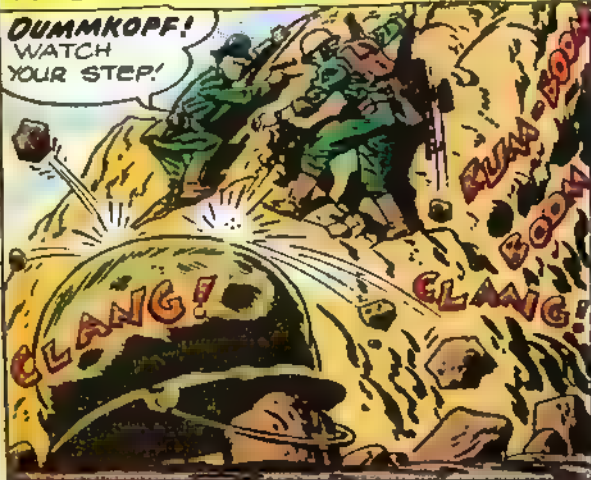
BUT, SAD TO TELL...

GOOD WORK, SPOTTING THAT OBSERVER! NOW NO ONE CAN WARN OF OUR ADVANCE! THEY THOUGHT TO TRAP US IN THE VALLEY! HA!



BUT THE ENEMY HAD NOT RECKONED ON MY MAGIC! FOR I WAS PLEDGED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE AMERICAN COOK...

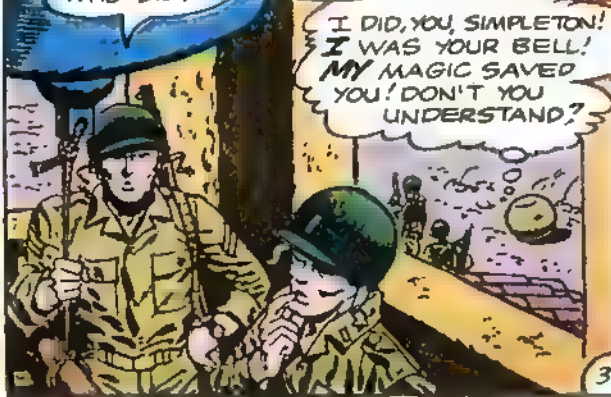
DUMMKOPF! WATCH YOUR STEP!



THE RESONANT TONES RANG OUT, BRINGING THE AMERICANS WHO QUICKLY WON THE DAY...

I DON'T GET IT, LIEUTENANT! THE BELL ROPE IS STILL SECURED! THE SARGE DIDN'T RING IT WHEN HE WAS HIT--SO WHO DID?

I DID, YOU SIMPLETON! I WAS YOUR BELL! MY MAGIC SAVED YOU! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?



IN TIME I WAS SHIPPED TO AMERICA WITH A LOAD OF SCRAP METAL, BUT SOMEHOW I WAS SAVED FROM THE SMELTER, AND ONE WINTER'S DAY...

THEY'RE CLOSING IN! GOT TO DITCH THIS DOUGH! IT'S NOT HOT, BUT IT'LL GET ME TIME FOR TAX EVASION! WHERE CAN I STASH IT?

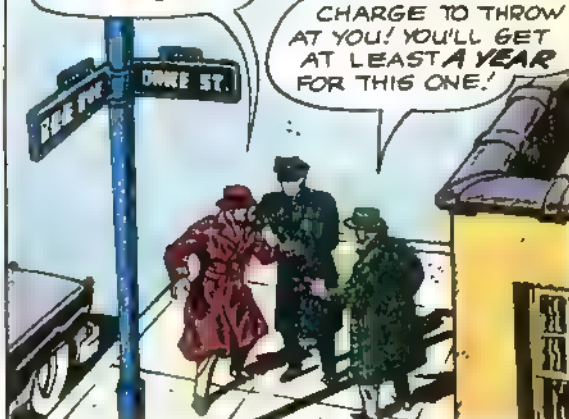


OVER HERE! PUT IT HERE!

AND, BY THE GHOST OF DRUSILLA, HE DID!

YOU GUYS HAVE NOTHING ON ME! I HAVEN'T GOT MORE THAN \$10 IN MY POCKET!

WE WEREN'T AFTER YOUR MONEY! WE'VE GOT A NEW CHARGE TO THROW AT YOU! YOU'LL GET AT LEAST A YEAR FOR THIS ONE!



AND LATER...

\$50,000 HERE IF THERE'S A CENT! IF NO ONE CLAIMS IT IN SIX MONTHS, YOUR CHARITY WILL GET IT ALL!

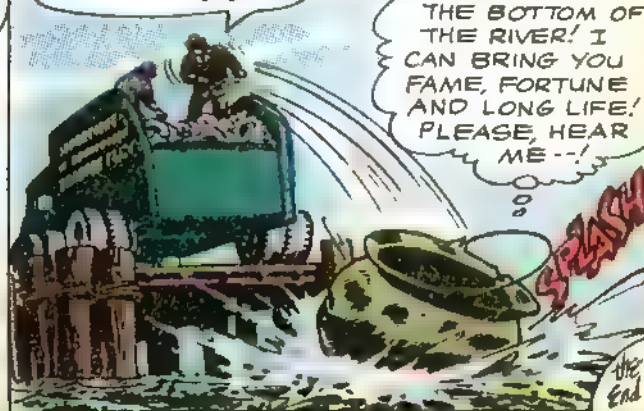
WHAT A LUCKY POT THIS IS! TOO BAD IT'S SO BEATEN UP WE'RE GETTING RID OF IT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!



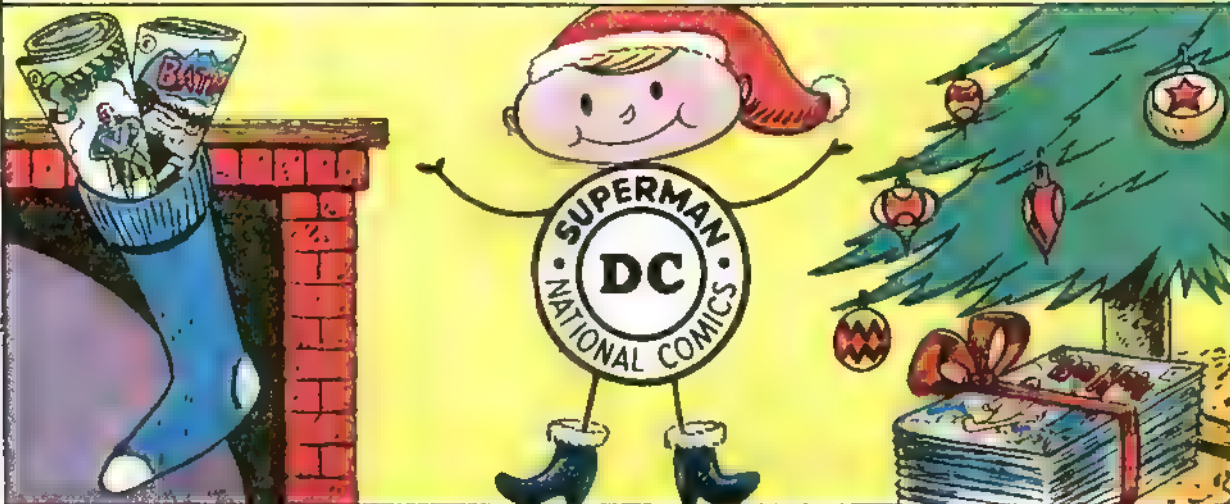
FOOLISH MORTALS! DIDN'T THEY REALIZE I COULD MAKE ALL THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE?

THE ONLY THING THIS IS GOOD FOR IS TO BREAK YOUR BACK! UGGH!

LISTEN TO ME! DON'T LEAVE ME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER! I CAN BRING YOU FAME, FORTUNE AND LONG LIFE! PLEASE, HEAR ME!



For HOLIDAY GIVING...
For HOLIDAY RECEIVING...
For THE BEST in READING PLEASURE



132 2 Complete Modern
Navies in Gray and Green
PIECES **SCALED IN 3-D**
ALL PLASTIC - UP TO 5" LONG
Numerically classified below

NUCLEAR NAVAL BATTLE GAME!!

An action packed thrill a minute game.
Each Commander maneuvers every ship with
authentic tactics and controls sonar, mine lay-
ing, torpedo runs, plane launchings and ship
to ship combat.

A COMPLETE
GAME \$1.50

132 PIECE NAVIES
GIANT BATTLE AREA
2 GYRO INDICATORS
SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

A COMPARISON CHART of the
two most powerful Navies in the
World - United States and Russia

CONVOY TERROR



FLEET

2 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS* 4 DESTROYERS
12 HEAVY CRUISERS** 8 DESTROYERS*
2 HEAVY BATTLESHIPS 2 LIGHT CRUISERS*
2 DESTROYER FRIGATES**
6 DESTROYER LEADERS*
4 DESTROYER ESCORTS

AUXILIARIES

30 PLANES 8 MINES 10 P.T. BOATS
2 MINE SWEEPERS 8 MINE LAYERS
20 CARGO SHIPS 12 SUBMARINES**

* Missiles (For toys only see coupon)
** Nuclear

FIVE STAR TOYS SORRY NO C.O.D.'s
REGO PARK 74, N. Y., DEPT. 100-XN

Please send me the item(s) I have checked.
I have enclosed the correct amount.

☐ 132 TOYS ONLY • \$1.15
☐ COMPLETE GAME • \$1.50

Satisfaction guaranteed or return for full refund
within 10 days.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE

Canada \$2.00, Eng. 13/- Aust. 16/-
Cash or International Postal M.O.

New Improved

2 GIANT BATTLEFIELDS - a total size of 3 square feet.
(Six islands in the Pacific Ocean beautifully colored.)

88 PIECE TASK FORCE IN GRAY & GREEN

4 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS 24 PLANES
4 DESTROYERS 8 LANDING BARGES
4 BATTLESHIPS 4 HEADQUARTERS
16 TANKS WITH MOVABLE TURRETS
24 PILL BOXES

These unbreakable 3-D metallic plastic toys
are authentically scaled and each is realistic-
ally proportioned to the giant battlefields.
(For toys only see coupon below.)

375 RED MARKERS—enough to
record the most savage bombings
and shelling.

Simple directions etc. for 2 or 4
players, from 8 to 80 who enjoy
being armchair generals.

AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING WAR GAME

TASK FORCE

REG. U.S. PATENT OFFICE

ONLY
\$1.00
PLUS
POSTAGE



HELEN OF TOY, CO.
REGO PARK 74, NEW YORK

NO C.O.D.'s
Dept. 37-XN

88 TOYS ONLY—75¢ ppd. ☐

BOTH!! Complete game and 88 extra toys
(total of 176 toys)—\$2.00 ppd. ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZONE STATE

Canadian: Bank for \$2.20 Cash or International Postal M.O.

HELEN OF TOY, CO.
REGO PARK 74, NEW YORK

NO C.O.D.'s
Dept. 37-XN

PLEASE RUSH me . . . complete TASK FORCE
game(s) for which I am enclosing \$1.00 plus 55¢
for postage and handling for each game I have
ordered. If I am not completely satisfied I may
return it within 10 days for a full refund.

NAME

ADDRESS

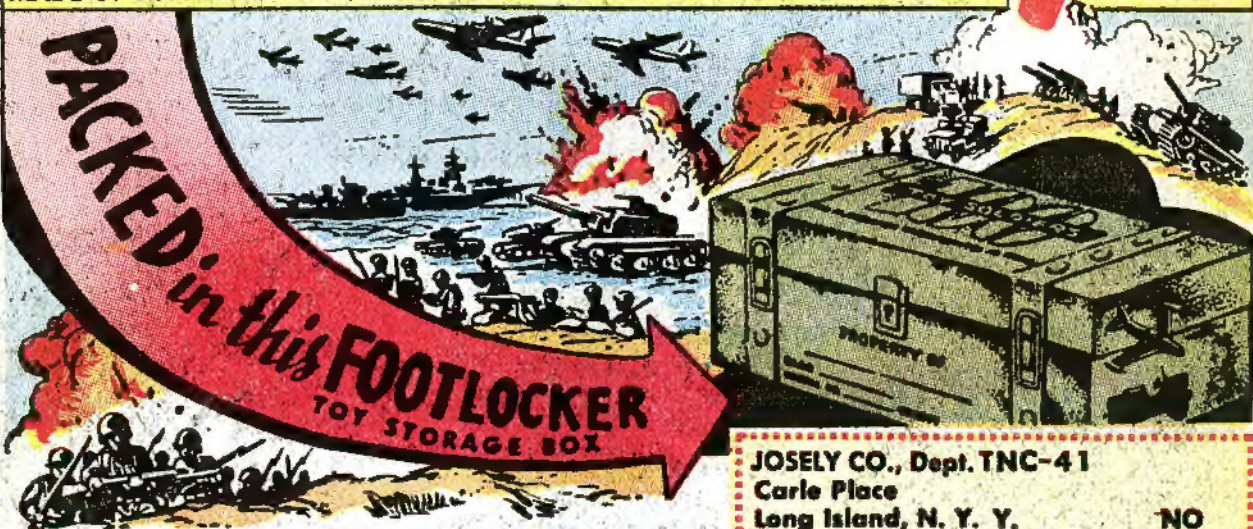
CITY ZONE STATE

CANADA: \$1.40, ENGLAND: 10/-, AUSTRALIA: 13/-
Cash or International Postal M.O.

Tension runs high as a big full scale battle looms
with all elements participating on land, sea and air.
The team best able to strategically place his forces
and direct his firing will be the only battle survivor!
There is no imagination necessary here!! You get
the equipment, the battlefield and the rules on how
to Locate, Occupy and Destroy the enemy.
It is actually played and tremendously enjoyed by
members of our real Armed Forces.

100 TOY SOLDIERS \$1.25

MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4 1/2"!



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 4 Tanks | 8 Machinegunners | 4 Bombers |
| 4 Jeeps | 8 Sharpshooters | 4 Trucks |
| 4 Battleships | 4 Infantrymen | 8 Jet Planes |
| 4 Cruisers | 8 Officers | 8 Cannon |
| 4 Sailors | 8 Waves | 8 Bazookamen |
| 4 Riflemen | 8 Wacs | 4 Marksmen |

JOSELY CO., Dept. TNC-41

Carle Place

Long Island, N. Y. Y.

NO

HERE'S MY \$1.25!

C.O.D.'s

Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name

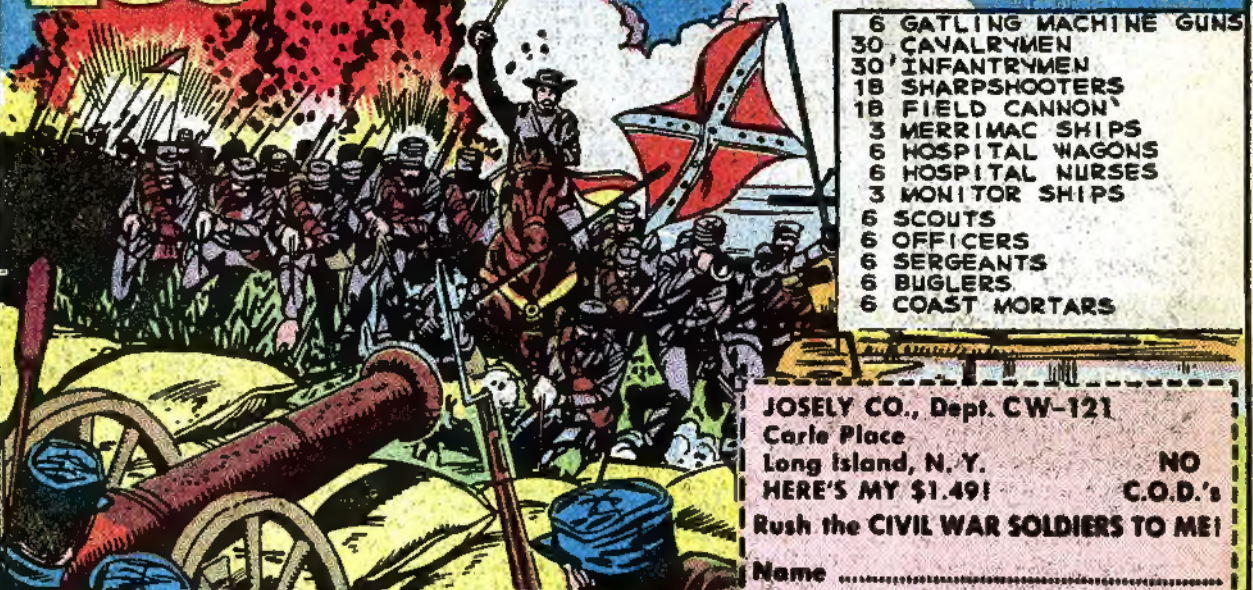
Address

City

State

Canada and foreign orders send \$1.50 postal money order.

150 CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS! \$1.49



- 6 GATLING MACHINE GUNS
- 30 CAVALRYMEN
- 30 INFANTRYMEN
- 18 SHARPSHOOTERS
- 18 FIELD CANNON
- 3 MERRIMAC SHIPS
- 6 HOSPITAL WAGONS
- 6 HOSPITAL NURSES
- 3 MONITOR SHIPS
- 6 SCOUTS
- 6 OFFICERS
- 6 SERGEANTS
- 6 BUGLERS
- 6 COAST MORTARS

JOSELY CO., Dept. CW-121

Carle Place

Long Island, N. Y.

NO

HERE'S MY \$1.49!

C.O.D.'s

Rush the CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name

Address

City

State

Canadian orders send \$1.75 postal money order

**TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE BLUES AND THE GREYS
EACH PIECE OF MOLDED PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN
BASE MEASURING UP TO 4 INCHES!**

Are YOU
SKINNY
like I was?

a sickly
skeleton who
developed a
streamlined
physique and
great physical
endurance.

American
Body building
Club president

REDHORN

3 years of
A brilliant
VERSITY
ATOR,

ON
MIND
Y.

jpg.

SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS OF AGE

Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below with YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON IT
and I'll show YOU absolutely FREE

How to GAIN UP TO 50 LBS. OF MIGHTY MUSCLES!

or LOSE up to 50 LBS. of UGLY, DANGEROUS FAT

And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick,
Easy Methods How To

ADD POWERFUL NEW
INCHES OF MUSCLES
around YOUR ARMS,
CHEST, LEGS, etc.

How to IMPROVE YOUR
HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.

How to BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE
IN ALL POPULAR SPORTS.

How to BEAT ANY BULLY.

How to DO FEATS OF STRENGTH.

How to be a WINNER in EVERYTHING
YOU TACKLE.

YES! Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES — won a BIG SILVER TROPHY, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and \$100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man STRENGTH, his mighty ARMS, heroic CHEST, slender WAIST, rock-like TORSO, broad manly BACK, wide military SHOULDERS, new popularity with the BOYS and GIRLS. His winning drive in ALL SPORTS, his energy at work and studies.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes a day in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a tower of strength and endurance.

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR CHEST, BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED, ENDURANCE. You'll become the SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN IN LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERYTHING, athletics, business, studies.

DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES
BY THE GREATEST METHOD!

Friend, I traveled the world,
studying every secret to
PERFECTLY develop your
body. My "5-Way Progressive
Natural Power Method"

is TESTED-
PROVED by hundreds of
thousands LIKE YOU! SAVE
YEARS, hundreds of DOL-
LARS! Do as movie stars,
champions — John Sill, Jim
Norman, Tony Pascarella —
did! Mail coupon NOW!

Pick the
kind of
BODY YOU
WANT
Check ALL Your
Needs —

WIN
A BIG
Silver Trophy
and \$100
IN CASH



MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW (before it is too late)
and I'll Send You FREE these

5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED TEST COURSES

PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG
MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU

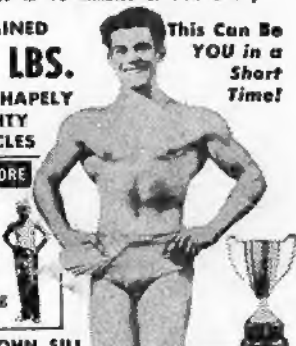


MILLIONS were sold at \$1.00. Send for them ALL
FREE. Mail Coupon BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

I GAINED
60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY
MIGHTY
MUSCLES

This Can Be
YOU in a
Short
Time!

BEFORE
Mailing
Coupon
I was a
125 lb.
6 ft.
skinny
weakling



says JOHN SILL

I added 7 inches to
MY CHEST, 3 1/2
INCHES to EACH ARM.
No, Pals You don't
have to be a chick-
en-chested skinny
weakling like I was
only a few weeks
ago.

AFTER

Mailing
Coupon
185 lb.
HEAD-TO-
TOE HE-MAN
POPULAR
ATHLETE
You can
be, too!

This now MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES,
26 yr. old
teacher,
Wm. Butler,

says to YOU "No
matter WHAT your
age, I advise you to
SEND for the ABC-
WONDER PICTURE
COURSES at once.
Under the World's
greatest home train-
ing BODY BUILDER,
I now have 18 1/2"
ARMS, a 52" CHEST,
my STRENGTH has
greatly improved. So
have my sports. I have won titles
like "Mr. Virginian," "Mr. State
Y.M.C.A.," etc.



How would YOU
like to have 18 1/2
inch ARMS, a 52
inch CHEST like
this ABC pupil?
NOW HAS?

I BROKE A
WORLD'S
STRENGTH
RECORD!

JIM NORMAN
became Athlete of
the Year. Lifted
the front end of a 2700 lb.
Car. Quit being a bag-of-
bones weakling like I was.
In 10 minutes of fun a day,
A.B.C. CAN DO FOR YOU
ALL HE DID FOR ME! I
gained 25 TERRIFIC LBS.
of HANDSOME POWER-
PACKED MUSCLES.



AFTER
mailing
coupon
below—
like
you do
NOW.

AMERICAN BODY BUILDING CLUB, Dept. NC-31 GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

Mail me FREE all 5 WORLD FAMOUS STRENGTH TEST COURSES,
including PHOTO BOOK OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN, once weaklings,
now famous Strong Men, and How to Become one of Them.

- ☐ I enclose 10c for mailing and handling.
I am under no other obligation.
I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want.
☐ I want to gain _____ lbs. (fill in). ☐ Triple my strength.
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.
☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ ARMS ☐ CHEST
☐ SHOULDERS ☐ POWERFUL LEGS ☐ SLIM WAIST
☐ I want to become a winning athlete. ☐ I want new pep.

NAME _____ AGE _____

DO NOT MAIL COUPON IF UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

FREE
Sports,
Self-
defense,
Strong-man
Stunts
Courses
Apparatus.
Let me
know how
to get these
FREE!

FOR REAL SHOOTIN' FUN
WITH A REAL GUN FEEL

DAISY

"SPITTIN' IMAGE"

1894 B·B GUN



The Daisy 1894 has the look, the heft, the feel of the famous rifle that won the West. It's the "Spittin' Image" of the Model 94 Winchester ... constant companion of the rugged men who rode the plains and dusty streets of the Wild West. The

same two-way lever cocking action and side loading port. The same "slim-line" barrel and accurate buckhorn sight. It's a Daisy "Spittin' Image"!

\$12.98



**DAISY'S
NEW B·B SIX GUN**

A "Spittin' Image" of the famous Frontier Peacemaker. Fast drawing—fast shooting. Single action 12-shot repeater.

\$7.98

Other Daisy B·B Guns from \$6.98 to \$14.98.

DAISY BULLSEYE® B·Bs

For top accuracy with all B·B guns. From the world's largest manufacturer of B·Bs. Copper coated.

5¢ Pouch; 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ tubes.



For B·B Shootin' fun for you and your Dad, set up a **DAISY·RANGE** indoors! Send in this coupon, today, so we can mail you a free booklet on the exciting new **DAISY·RANGE**—plus another free booklet on all of Daisy's great shootin' B·B Guns.

DAISY MANUFACTURING COMPANY
B·B Gun Division, Box 163-O,
Rogers, Arkansas (in Canada—Preston, Ont.)

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____



Daisy
B·B GUN DIVISION